Activities

The Magic School Bus Dries Up
For once, Arnold is prepared for a field trip! He's wearing desert survival gear. But the class discovers that desert animals have built-in ways of surviving.

Grades: 3–5

Overview
This Magic School Bus story about weather and deserts leads to a hands-on project to see which foods contain water.
Field Trip Notes
Can anyone do something about the weather? It's a hot, muggy day and a thunderstorm might help break the heat. Ralphie fantasizes being a superhero — Weatherman — who controls the weather. He gets to live out his daydream when the class rides the Magic School Bus into the clouds. As Weatherman, Ralphie makes wind, an updraft, clouds, and rain. Then a thunderstorm moves in and the Magic School Bus is caught in the middle of it! Can Weatherman save then day?

Where's The Water?
For once, Arnold is prepared for a field trip! He's wearing desert survival gear. But the class discovers that desert animals have 'built-in' adaptations, or ways of surviving. One adaptation many desert animals have is the ability to get water from their food. Have children work in small groups to find out if foods they eat contain water.

What You Need
For each group:
4 bite-size pieces of different foods
(Try apple, turkey, cheese, bread, chips.)
4 plastic sandwich bags that zip closed
gooseneck lamp with 75-watt bulb
WHEN DO WE EAT Worksheet

Talk About It
Ask children if they think there is water in the food they eat. Why? Together, make a list of foods that kids think contain water.
**What To Do**

- Give each group the materials.
- Arrange a spot for kids to place bags about 20 inches under the lamp.
- Help kids discover if the foods contain water.
  (The moisture from the food evaporates and condenses in the sandwich bag.)
Write the name of the food in each bag on the labels.

Find out if different foods you eat contain water.
1. Put one piece of food in each plastic bag and seal.
2. Place the bags under the lamp.

**PREDICTIONS**

Which food do you think will have the most water? ________________

Why? ___________________________________________________________________

Which food do you think will have the least water? ________________

Why? ___________________________________________________________________

**OBSERVATIONS** After waiting half an hour, look at the bags.

Which food has the most water in it? ________________

How can you tell? ___________________________________________________________________

Which food has the least? _____________________

How can you tell? ___________________________________________________________________

Do all the food pieces have some water? ________________

How can you tell? ___________________________________________________________________