

Water Cycle in a Bag

Objective: Students learn about the water cycle and see the processes in real life.

Age: any

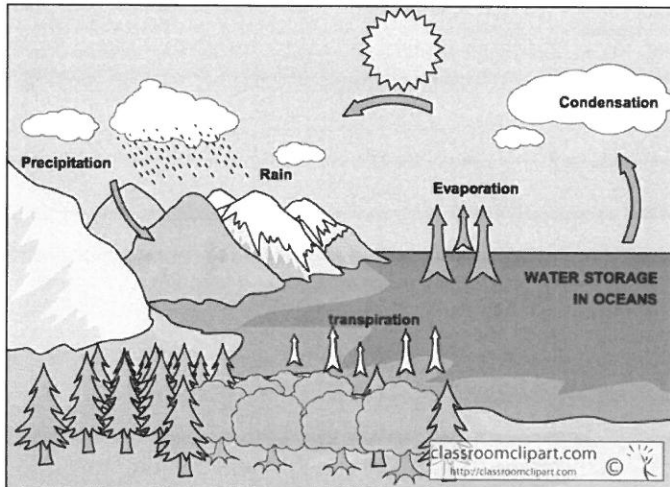
Time: 15-20 minutes for set up, 1-2 days for observations

Materials: Clear plastic sandwich bags (strong enough to hold liquid), permanent markers, tape or string to hang bags with, water. Optional: food coloring, small cup or dish, paper towel.

Directions:

1. Using the diagram below discuss the water cycle.
2. Have students draw the water cycle on the plastic bag. Be careful not to damage or puncture the bag.
3. Add a small amount of water to the bag using one of the methods below.
 - a. Add water directly to the bag, either clear or colored with food coloring.
 - b. Add clear or colored water to a small cup and place the cup inside the bag. A clear cup is best for this activity.
 - c. Add a wet paper towel to the bottom of the bag to represent soil.
4. Hang in a sunny window. You can tape the bag to a window, or use string to tie it up.
5. Wait and observe

The Water Cycle:



Discussion Questions:

1. What happened when the bags were left in the sun?
2. What made the water evaporate?
3. Why did the water collect on the sides of the bag? What is that called?
4. What happened when the water droplets on the bag got too big?