

WATERDROPS

Water Cycle Issue

Teacher's Guide

Welcome to the Water Cycle Issue of WaterDrops! As part of the Splash! Water Resources Education program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District offers this water resources newsletter for elementary students in grades 3–5. The newsletter, correlated to grades 3–5 of the Sunshine State Standards, provides an interesting way for students to increase their awareness and respect for our precious water resources. WaterDrops includes fiction, nonfiction, writing and drawing activities, games and Web sites to explore. We have also included a hydrologic cycle poster to display. Let WaterDrops make a splash in your classroom!

Many other free materials are available from the Southwest Florida Water Management District. We also offer water resources workshops for teachers in your county. Forms are included for your convenience. Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions about our water resources education programs.

Sincerely,

Beth Bartos

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Page 1 Hello Readers!

Water is one of our most important resources. Discuss the need to use water wisely. Ask students to list ways to conserve water. There are many ways to save water. Take shorter showers. Turn the water off when you are washing your face or brushing your teeth. Don't toss into the toilet what can go into a wastebasket. Check for leaks or drips in faucets or toilets.
Sunshine State Standard: SC.D.2.2.1

Page 1 Water Drips & Drops

It's fun to learn facts about water. Discuss the concept of water going through a never-ending cycle since the beginning of time.
Sunshine State Standard: SC.H.2.2.1

Pages 2 & 3 Feature Story

Read the story together. Use the hydrologic cycle poster to discuss the different parts of the water cycle. Point out how each part relates to other parts in the cycle. Discuss solar energy, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transpiration and percolation. Explain the importance of each part to the continuous cycle. Ask students to complete the writing assignment. Share a few of the stories with the rest of the class.
Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5, SC.B.1.2.1, SC.D.1.2.3

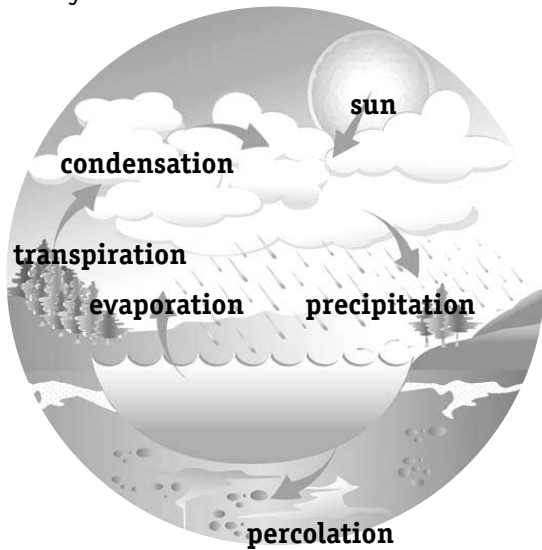
Page 4 Take It Home

Prepare your students for the activity that they will do at home. You may even want to do a demonstration of the experiment in the classroom. Make sure that students have the materials for completing the experiment at home. Ask students to read the directions for making the miniature water cycle at home. Encourage students to try the experiment at home. Ask students to share their notes and draw conclusions about what they learned about the water cycle.
Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.3, SC.G.1.2.3, SC.H.1.2.5

Select two students to play the roles of Sherita and Water Cycle Wanda. Ask the students to read their parts. Identify places where students may be able to locate additional information about trees and the process of transpiration. Sources of information may include books, pamphlets, TV weather channel, radio, Internet, etc. Ask students to think of another question for Water Cycle Wanda and send it to the address listed at the bottom of page 8 in the newsletter.
Sunshine State Standard: SC.G.1.2.3

Using the terms and definitions, discuss the different parts of the water cycle. Help students complete the labeling activity. For an additional activity, ask students to make up a sentence using each of the terms.
Sunshine State Standard: SC.H.2.2.1

Answer Key:



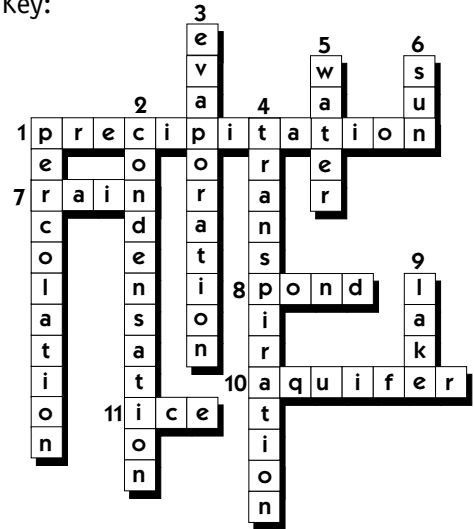
Water Cycle Everywhere!

Before reading the article, ask students to describe the meaning of *condensation*. Read the article together and ask students to complete the sentences at the bottom of the page.
Sunshine State Standard: SC.D.1.2.3

Fill-in-the-Blank Answer Key:
rains, cools, hydrologic or water

Water Cycle Crossword Puzzle

Answer Key:



Surf Bill Nye's Web site, <http://nyelabs.kcts.org>, for interesting topics about water. Enter the site and visit the Teacher's Lounge. Then, click on "Episode Guides" in the top left-hand corner. Find "Water Cycle" on the pull down menu and hit "go." As an extended activity, ask students to prepare research questions and search for answers on the Internet.

Discuss several ways that families can conserve water in their homes. This closing activity can be submitted by an individual student or as a classroom set.

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