

Splish, Splash, Raindrops!!



Introduction: Hey guys!! Have you ever wondered where the water goes after it rains? Well grab your umbrellas because we're going to investigate the water cycle. You're going to splish and splash your way through 3 stops on this science trail where you will observe the river and its surroundings, create a mini water cycle, and to wrap up the science trail you will write a Haiku while listening to a rain cd. Use the pictures and map provided to guide you. Get ready! Get set! Get wet!

Step 2 - Down To The River



At the second stop you will be making observations about the river (write/draw/both). Be sure to check out the water and its surroundings. Make at least 4 descriptions about what you see. Can you tell if any animals have been around this area? By looking at the land and the edge of the water, can you tell if the water level has changed? What things can you find near the water? What does the water look like (dirty, clear, cold, moving fast/slow)? Has the land been affected by the water (animal homes, feeding spots, grass/mud/rocks near water, dead/living plants)?

Prediction #1: What do you think would happen to the water level of the river if it rained for 3 straight days?

Prediction #2: What do you think would happen to the water level of the river if it did not rain for a week?

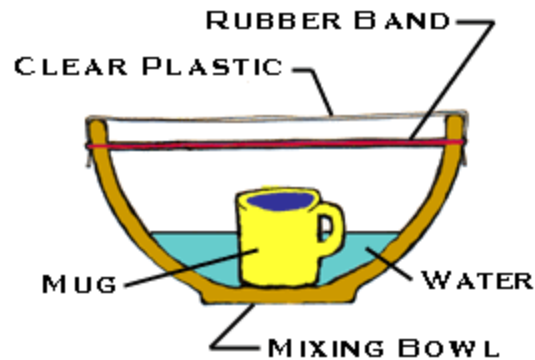


Don't forget after this stop to head back to stop #1 to record your observations on the mini water cycle!!!!

Stop 1 - The Football Field



At the first stop you will be making a miniature water cycle.



Materials: large plastic bowl, water, piece of string, coffee mug, plastic wrap,

The sun's heat makes water evaporate from streams, lakes, rivers, and oceans. The water vapor rises. When it reaches cooler air, it condenses to form clouds. When the clouds are full of water, or saturated, they release some of the water as rain.

Directions

1. Put the bowl in a sunny place.
2. Using a pitcher, pour water into the bowl until it's about 1/4 full.
3. Place the mug in the center of the bowl. Be careful not to splash any water into it.
4. Cover the top of the bowl tightly with plastic wrap.
5. Tie the string around the bowl to hold the plastic wrap in place. Once it has been created, skip ahead to stop #2. After you have completed stop #2 come back to stop #1 and record your observations.

6. Observe and record what you see in the space below (3 to 5 observations).

Explanation

The "mist" that forms on the plastic wrap will change into larger drops of water that will begin to drip. (You can speed up the dripping by carefully moving the bowl [don't splash!] into the shade.) When this happens, continue watching for a few minutes, and then carefully peel back the plastic. Is the coffee mug still empty? Water from the "ocean" of water in the bowl *evaporated*. It *condensed* to form misty "clouds" on the plastic wrap. When the clouds became *saturated* it "rained" into the mug!

Stop 3 - The Mall (Outside the Science Center)



At stop 3 you will notice a cd player with a cd inside. This time is meant for a free write/draw/both. Play the cd, relax, and listen. What do you hear? How do you feel? Think about what you did at the previous 2 stops. Write at least 5 things that you learned and/observed today.

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Haiku- type of poem. You may choose to rhyme but it is not a requirement. A haiku is made up of 17 syllables. There are 3 lines. The first line has 5 syllables, the second line as 7 syllables, and the third line has 5 syllables. You can say whatever you want about rain, water, or anything else you learned today. Here's an example:

Tiny little drops

Small drops making big puddles

Soon return to sky

Rain Haiku

By: _____

Date _____





Great Job Investigators!!! Thank you for participating in today's science trail.