

# Make your own water cycle

In this activity you can make your own water cycle in a jar to show how water is constantly transported around the earth.

## You will need:

- A glass jar
- A saucer or small plate
- Ice cubes
- Blue food colouring (optional)
- Felt pens or colouring crayons
- Paper
- Scissors
- Glue

## What to do:

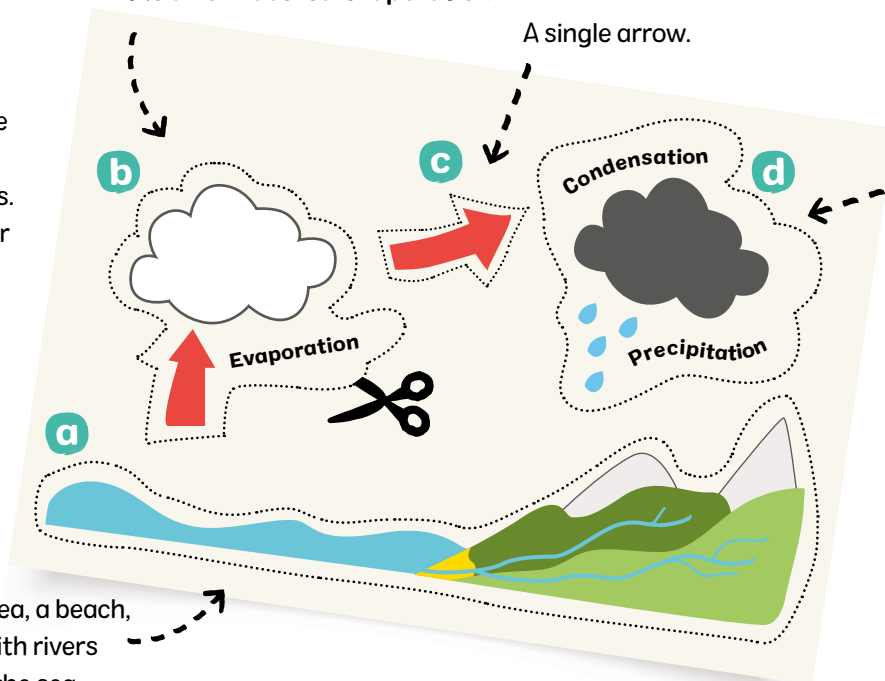
1

First draw the water cycle ready to stick on your jar. Look at how big your jar is. The pictures need to cover approximately half of the side.

You will need all four pieces a, b, c and d.

An arrow pointing up to a white cloud with the arrow labelled 'evaporation'.

A single arrow.



A grey cloud with rain coming out. Label 'condensation' above the cloud and label the rain 'precipitation'.

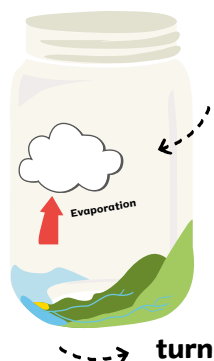
A piece with the sea, a beach, and mountains with rivers running down to the sea.

2

Now stick the pictures onto your jar in this order:

a

Stick the sea/beach/mountains at the bottom of the jar.



b

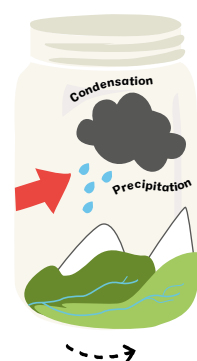
Add the white cloud just above the sea.

c

Add the arrow to the top right of the white cloud.

d

Finally, add the grey cloud above the mountains towards the top of the jar.



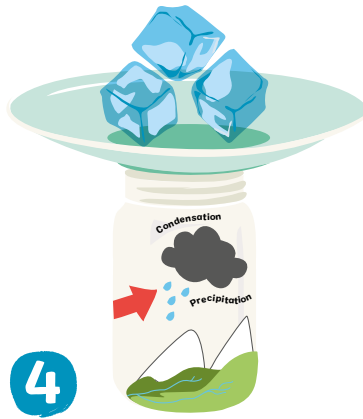
3

Add some water to the jar so that the water comes to the top of your 'sea'. You might want to add some blue food colouring (optional).



4

Place the saucer or small plate on top of the jar. Add 4-5 ice cubes onto the plate.



5

Leave your water cycle on a window sill or in another warm place.



## Can you guess what will happen?

- As the water (liquid) heats up, it turns into water vapour (gas). This is called evaporation.
- The water vapour (gas) then hits the cold saucer and turns back into water (liquid). This is called condensation.
- It then runs down the side of the jar back into the 'sea'. In the real water cycle, this would be water falling from the sky (called precipitation) and travelling along rivers and back to the sea.

## Connecting with nature

- Go outside on a rainy day (making sure you wear the appropriate clothing). Whilst you're there enjoy splashing in the puddles!
- Imagine the journey that the rain has taken. A few days ago it might have been in the sea. A few million years ago it might have been drunk by a dinosaur! Water has been on earth for 4.6 billion (4,600 million) years! The dinosaurs lived between 230 and 65 million years ago, so water was around long before the dinosaurs roamed the earth. This same water is constantly transported round the earth. Isn't nature amazing?
- Has this changed how you feel about rain (and water in general)?
- You could write a poem or story, describing the amazing journey that a drop of water has taken over millions of years. Where has it been? What has it witnessed?

## Share the fun

We'd love to see pictures of your water cycles.

You could also share your photos with family and friends. I'm sure they'd enjoy making their own water cycle as much as you have.

Please feel free to share on [@wwtworldwide](#) or on your nearest **WWT centre's** social media