

Session title	The water cycle, wetlands and me	
Key question	What role do we play in the water cycle?	
Session description	Explore the water cycle. Investigate what happens when water falls on different surfaces. How can wetlands help slow down water and prevent flooding?	
Key Stage	KS1	
Duration	35 mins	

Curriculum links	KS1 Science - Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air) KS1 Geography - The water cycle.		
Learning outcomes	Most learners...	More able learners...	
	Will be able to explain that a wetland is part of the water cycle Will be able to describe what happens to water on some natural and man-made surfaces.	Will be able to give an example of how the actions of people can change wetlands Will be able to explain that natural habitats absorb water better than man-made surfaces	
Key vocabulary	Cycle Condensation	Water cycle Precipitation	Absorb Evaporation

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are given a brief intro to WWT Martin Mere and are introduced to the key question: What role do we play in the water cycle?	
Activity 1: Cloud in a bottle demonstration	5 mins
The session leader creates a cloud by lowering the pressure in a bottle, with help from a child volunteer to operate the pump.	
Activity 2: Water cycle role play	10 mins
Learners take part in the water cycle whole group role-play. All the children are the water in the oceans. With help from our sun on a stick, they 'evaporate' and then condense to rain on a hillside and flow back down a river into the sea where they started. We introduce pollution to the river, which accumulates in the sea. What can we do about this?	
Activity 3: Practical investigation.	10 mins
Learners test what happens when water falls on some natural and man-made surfaces. In pairs, children firstly predict what will happen when a measured amount of water falls from the same height onto grass, soil, gravel and tarmac, then discuss whether their predictions came true.	
Plenary	5 mins
Learners reflect on what this means for people building houses etc. on wetlands. They think back to the key question and share what they have learned.	