

Session title	The water cycle, wetlands and me	
Key Q	What role do we play in the water cycle?	
Session description	Experience the water cycle first-hand, investigating water as it moves through wetland habitats, slowing down and getting cleaner on its way to the river. Who and what benefits from this natural system and how might we affect it?	
Key Stage Suitability	KS2	
Duration	1 hour	

Curriculum links	KS2 Science Lower KS2: States of matter - Identify the part played by evaporation and condensation in the water cycle and associate the rate of evaporation with temperature. Lower KS2: Living things and their habitats - Recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things. - Explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment. KS2 Geography - Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle.	
Learning outcomes	Most learners will...	More able learners will...
	- be able to label the processes within a water cycle - be able to identify animals & plants closely using simple equipment, keys and guides. - be able to describe the role that wetlands play within the water cycle. - be able to think of ways they can save on the amount of water they use.	- be able to understand and care more about wetland ecosystems and the threats to them. - be able to describe how humans can influence the water cycle.
Key vocabulary	Ecosystem Habitat Threat	Wetlands Water cycle Evaporation
		Condensation Precipitation World

Session Outline	Time
Introduction	5 mins
Learners are introduced to wetlands and to the key question – What role do we play in the water cycle?	
Activity 1: Where else has this water been?	5 mins
In pairs learners share ideas as to where else they think the water they are being shown has ever been.	

Activity 2: Build a water cycle	5 mins
Learners build a water cycle including thinking about the role of wetlands within it.	
Activity 3: Investigate a wetland	35 mins
In groups, using a variety of equipment and senses learners investigate wetland plants, minibeads and birds.	
Activity 4: Wetland facts and threats	3 mins
WWT staff share facts on why wetlands are amazing, and learners think about what threats wetlands face.	
Plenary	2 mins
Learners are asked to think about how they can look after our water and to look out for wetlands with other roles around the centre.	