

## GOAL:

Explore the different stages in the water cycle.

## MATERIALS:

- plastic wrap
- ice cubes
- hot water
- small cup
- bowl

## STEPS:



1. Put the small cup in the bowl.
2. Pour hot water into the bowl, but not into the small cup.
3. Cover the top of the bowl with plastic wrap.
4. Place ice cubes on top of the plastic wrap.
5. Wait 10 minutes, then remove plastic wrap. While you wait, read the second page of this experiment.

## DISCUSSION:

There should be some water collected in the small cup. Why do you think that happened?

What materials in our experiment might represent clouds, land, the atmosphere, and Lake Michigan?



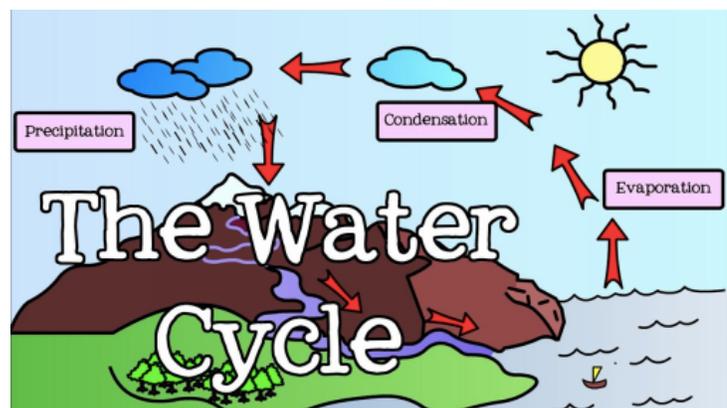
**QUICK TIP:** Try moving this experiment to different spots in your house. What happens in sunshine? In shade? In the fridge?

## WHAT IS THE WATER CYCLE?

The water cycle describes how water evaporates from the surface of the earth, rises into the atmosphere, cools and condenses into rain or snow clouds, and falls again to the surface as precipitation. When rain falls it lands on buildings, roads, soil, grass, and rivers. Much of it flows back into the Great Lakes, where it will once again evaporate. The cycling of water in and out of the atmosphere is a significant part of the weather patterns on Earth.

## WHY IS THE WATER CYCLE IMPORTANT?

Earth's water is finite, meaning that the amount of water in, on, or above our planet does not increase or decrease. All living things need water in order to survive. Water makes up about 60-70 percent of all living beings. Humans cannot survive for more than a week without drinking water.



FOR MORE IN-DEPTH INSTRUCTION AND VISUALS, GO TO:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IO9tT186mZw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILGmddxT178>

(You might find a rap song about the water cycle!)