

**GOAL:** Explore the different stages in the water cycle.

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- MATERIALS:**
- Materials Needed:
  - Plastic Wrap (represents atmosphere)
  - Ice Cubes (represents clouds)
  - Hot Water
  - Small Cup (representing land)
  - Bowl (represents Lake Michigan)



- STEPS:**
1. Put the small cup in the bowl
  2. Pour hot water in the bowl (but not in the small cup)
  3. Put salt in the water (to represent salt water)
  4. Cover the top of the bowl with plastic wrap.
  5. Place ice-cubes on top of the plastic wrap
  6. Wait 10 minutes then remove plastic wrap

**DISCUSSION:** There should be some water collected in the small cup. Why do you think that happened? How can you see this cycle in nature?

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### 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 in clouds, and falls again to the surface as precipitation. The water falling on land collects in rivers and lakes, soil, and porous layers or rock, and much of it flows back into the great lakes, where it will once more 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, and above our planet does not increase or decrease. All living things need water in order to survive. Water makes up 60 to 70 percent of all living beings. Humans cannot live without drinking water for more than a week.

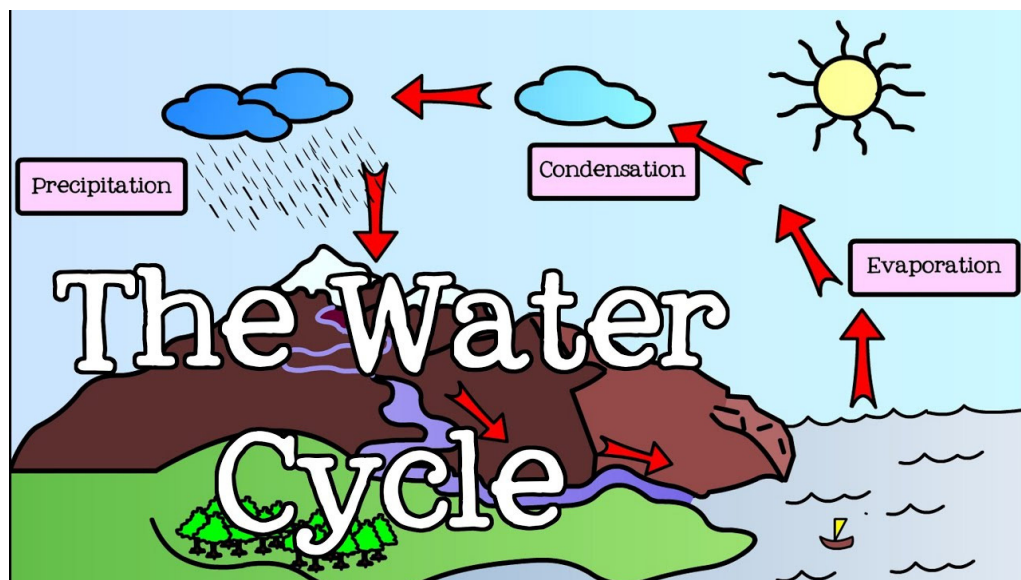


Image: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l09tT186mZw>

### LEARN MORE:

Watch the Water Cycle with a Rap song by Mr. Lee:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILGmddxT178>