

## Water Cycle Project

### Objective

Identify and observe the components of the water cycle by constructing a simple, miniature model.

### Materials Needed

- Clear plastic, sealable food storage bag
- Measuring spoon
- Masking tape

### Procedure

1. Pour 1 ½ tablespoons of water into the storage bag
2. Blow air inside the bag, and quickly seal it
3. Place the bag on a sunny window ledge or tape it directly to the window pane
4. Observe the bag throughout the day, and note any changes

### Conclusion

Water molecules are constantly on the move in what is called the **water cycle** (or hydrologic cycle). Heat from the sun causes the water to **evaporate** and become a vapor. As the water vapor cools, it **condenses**, forming tiny droplets which gather to form clouds. As the droplets get larger, they become heavier causing them to fall to the ground as **precipitation** (like rain, sleet, or snow). Some of this precipitation joins lakes and streams (called **surface water**), and some of it soaks into the ground where it becomes **groundwater**. The process of water soaking into the ground is called **infiltration**, or **recharge**.

### Variation

For faster results, make two bags. Put cold water in the first bag and hot water in the second bag. Compare the two bags.

### Activity Source

*The Groundwater Gazette*, published by The Groundwater Foundation