

Drip, Drop, Splash

Water is all around us in many forms—rain, pools, puddles, lakes, rivers, and streams. Where does it



come from and where does it go? The water is being recycled over and over again as it travels through the water cycle.

We can start with precipitation, which is the act of water returning to the Earth. This can happen as rain, snow, sleet, or hail.



Once the water reaches the ground, it has to go somewhere. It may travel to the lowest spot on the surface of the ground, seep into the ground, or



join a body of water that already exists.

Once the water has been collected, it will be used by plants and animals or heated by the sun. At this stage of the water cycle, the water is going through transpiration (moving through plants), perspiration (moving through animals), or evaporation (changing forms from a

liquid to a gas). The water is released back into the atmosphere once again.

Now that the water is in the atmosphere, it will start to stick to dust particles and form clouds.



This is called condensation. Once the clouds reach their maximum capacity, the water becomes precipitation. The temperature determines whether it is rain, snow, sleet, or hail. Thus starting the water cycle all over again.

The largest bodies of water on the earth are



the oceans, but they are filled with saltwater that is not something we can readily drink. We are lucky enough to live near some of the largest collections of freshwater—the Great Lakes. Can you name all five? They spell HOMES. Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, and Superior.



Books about Water

Here are some books to help exploring salamanders.

Down Comes the Rain by Franklyn Branley

It's Raining! by Gail Gibbons

Raindrops Roll by April Pulley Sayre

Splish! Splash! A Book About Rain by Josepha Sherman

We Need Water by Charles Ghigna

Water Can Be by Laurie Purdie Salas

In The Small, Small Pond by Denise Fleming

Turtle Splash (Countdown at the Pond) by Cathryn Falwell

Would You Rather Be a Pollywog (All About Pond Life) by Dr. Seuss

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Drip, Drop, Splash Activities and Crafts

Raindrop Suncatchers



You will need blue crayons, a pencil or crayon sharpener, waxed paper, an iron (for adult use) and scissors. Allow the students to look through crayon boxes and pick different shades of blue to use. Have the kids peel the crayons and sharpen them, collecting the shavings for the project. Spread the shavings out evenly on a big piece of waxed paper or you can use smaller, individual pieces for each student. Put another piece of waxed paper over the shavings and use an iron on the lowest setting to iron the shavings until they are melted. It only takes a quick swipe to do this and it cools quickly too. Teachers or students can then draw raindrop shapes on the paper and cut them out. Use a hole puncher and embroidery floss to string them up in windows for display!

Shaving Cream Clouds

Because most salamanders must lay their eggs in the water while the adult animal lives on land, they must migrate to wetlands in early spring for mating. Cover the children with

sheets and explain that they are hibernating salamanders, sleeping in the soil, under the leaves and snow. Slowly slide the sheets off the children as spring approaches.

The children then crawl on their bellies, while moving their arms and legs, toward the area you've designated as the swamp. Shortly after arriving, the salamanders return to their forest. You can have the returning salamanders gather bottle caps or games chips that represent insects and worms.



Water Cycle in a Bag

Warm up the water until steam starts to form. Add blue food coloring to represent seawater. Pour the water into the zip-lock bag and close the bag. Hang the bag upright. As the water evaporates, you can see the vapors form a white patch on the top. That represents cloud formation in the upper atmosphere.

After a while, water droplets start to appear on the bag and slide downward. That represents raining and the rain eventually flows back into the sea.



Activities for Further Learning and Fun

Water Songs and Poems

Water Cycle Song (to tune of *The Farmer in the Dell*)

Our water is recycled
Our water is recycled
The water cycle is what it's called
Our water is recycled

The sun dries up the water. (2x)
Evaporation is what it's called
The sun dries up the water

The vapor forms a cloud (2x)
Condensation is what it's called
The vapor forms a cloud

It starts to rain or snow (2x)
Precipitation is what it's called
It starts to rain or snow

Our water is recycled (2x)
The water cycle is what it's called
Our water is recycled



What is fluffy?
What is white?
What can you see
When skies are bright?
What can float?
What brings rain?
What may be higher
than a bird or plane?
Say it out loud:

Cloud!

Exploring Water Snacks & Experiments



Ocean Jello Cup

Simply make blue Jello in a clear cup. Garnish with a clementine slice boat and shark gummy if desired.

Fruit Flavored Water
Experiment with some of your favorite fruits. Dice up a selection of fruit (strawberries, pineapple, kiwi, oranges), place in a water bottle. Chill and serve.



Melting Hearts

Use a heart shaped ice mold. Add a drop of red food coloring and water to each mold. Freeze. Once frozen, place on a tray. Using an eye dropper and a cup of warm water, have the child experiment to see how many drops of water it takes to melt the heart.