

# WATERDROPS

Water Cycle

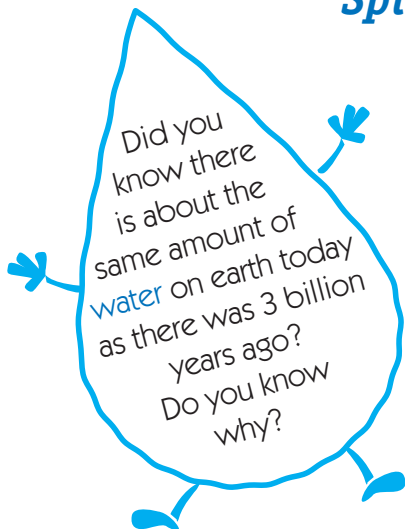
A Southwest Florida Water Management District Water Resources Newsletter for Grades 3-5

Hello Readers!

This issue of **WaterDrops** brings you information about **water** as a resource. What is a resource, you ask? It's something for us to use. **Water** is one of our most important resources. **Water** exists in a variety of places. We can find fresh **water** under the ground in places called aquifers and on the earth's surface in lakes, rivers and streams. We can see it falling from the sky as rain. Nearby, we can find salt **water** in the Gulf of Mexico.

All the **water** on the earth is part of a wonderful system in nature called the **water** cycle. After you complete this issue, you will know a lot more about the **water** cycle.

**Happy  
Splashing!**



Water  
Drips & Drops

Feature  
Story

Take It  
Home

Water Cycle  
Wanda

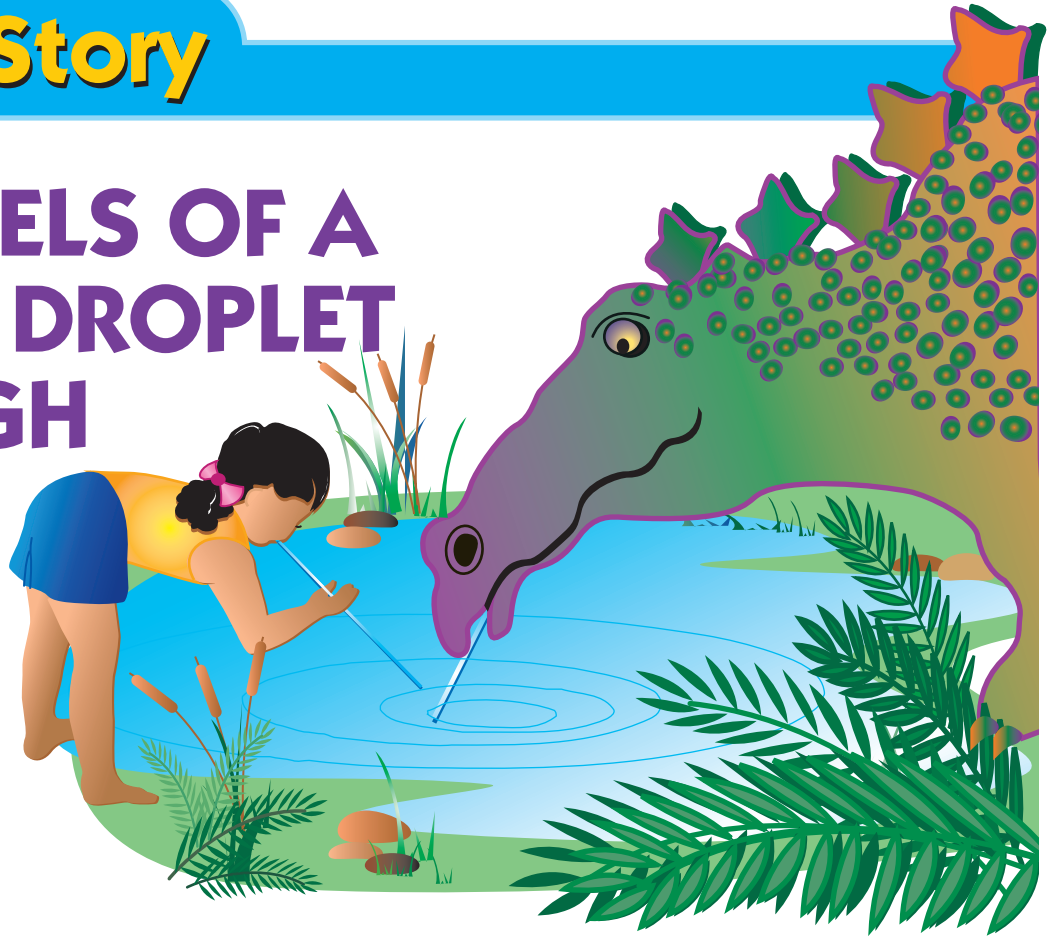
Water in Our  
World

Games &  
Puzzles

What's Wet  
on the Web!

## Feature Story

# THE TRAVELS OF A WATER DROPLET THROUGH TIME AND SPACE!



This week at school, Kim's class is learning about the **water** cycle. The students just finished watching a video on the story of **water**. They learned that **water** moves itself in a never-ending cycle.

"What did you like best about the video?" asked the teacher.

"I liked the part that showed a timeline with dinosaurs drinking **water**, and then pioneers drinking the same **water**, and finally children of today drinking the EXACT same **water**," said Kim.

"I never knew that!" exclaimed Tomika.

"I guess that means that in 100 years, people will be drinking the same **water**," said Clayton.

"We have the same amount of **water** on earth we've always had. I think that's cool!" said Rick.

The class continued the discussion about **water**. "Did you know the **water** cycle is also called the hydrologic cycle?" asked the teacher.

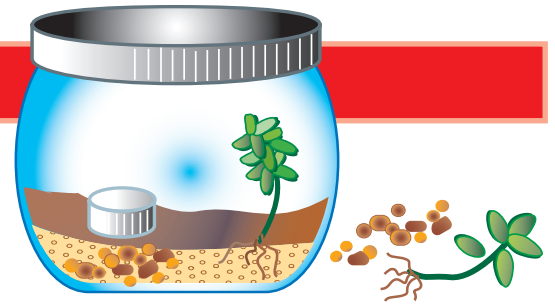
"I think **water** cycle is easier to remember than hydrologic cycle," said Kim.

"What's important is that we all understand the different parts that make up the cycle," said the teacher. "Let's imagine that each one of us is a **water** droplet. How would you describe your trip through the **water** cycle? You may begin your journey anywhere in the cycle."



# Take It Home

## CREATE A WATER CYCLE AT HOME!



Here is an easy experiment you can do at home.

### Materials:

- glass jar with lid
- small stones
- soil
- bottle cap
- sand
- a few small plants

### Directions:

1. Find a clean jar that has a wide top. An applesauce or a pickle jar works well for this project.
2. Place a layer of small stones in the bottom of the jar and then cover the stones with sand.
3. Fill the jar with soil until it's about half full. Place a few small plants in the soil.
4. Fill a soda bottle cap or other small container with **water**. Place the container next to the plants on top of the soil.
5. Place the jar lid on top and twist it as tightly as you can. Place your jar in a sunny place for a few days.

**You have created a miniature **water cycle**!** Take notes on what you observe about the moisture in the jar. Share your findings with the class.



## Ask Water Cycle Wanda

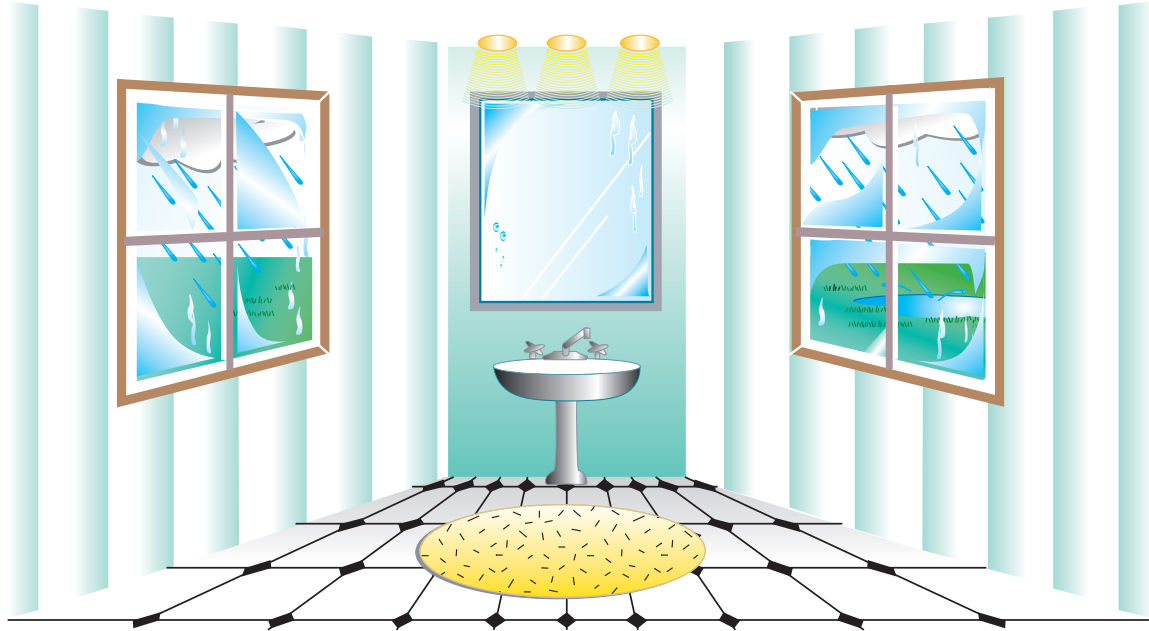
**Sherita asks: My teacher says trees give off water! Is this true?**

**Water Cycle Wanda:** Yes! Trees are an important part of the **water cycle**. They draw **water** up through their roots and use it to manufacture food. As they do this, they release oxygen and hydrogen through tiny holes in their leaves. This produces **water** in the form of gas. This process is called *transpiration*. Have you ever noticed you feel cooler when you walk through the woods? The shade cools us from the sun's heat. The moisture given off by the trees acts like a giant air conditioner that cools the surrounding air.



# Water in Our World

## WATER CYCLE EVERYWHERE!



Have you ever noticed a steamy bathroom mirror or window in your home? This is an example of an important part of the **water** cycle called *condensation*. **Water** vapor is a gas when it's in the air. The **water** vapor cools when it comes in contact with a cool surface such as the glass in a window. As the **water** vapor cools, it changes from a gas to a liquid. Tiny **water** droplets begin to form on the glass. As the droplets become heavier and heavier, they run down the glass. Something similar happens to **water** vapor in clouds. These droplets collect together in the clouds and grow heavier and heavier. When the droplets become too heavy to stay up in the clouds any longer, they fall as rain!

### Fill in the blank

*Complete each sentence by writing in the correct word.*

- When **water** droplets become too heavy to stay in the clouds, it \_\_\_\_\_.
- **Water** changes from a gas to liquid when it \_\_\_\_\_.
- Condensation is an important part of the \_\_\_\_\_ cycle.

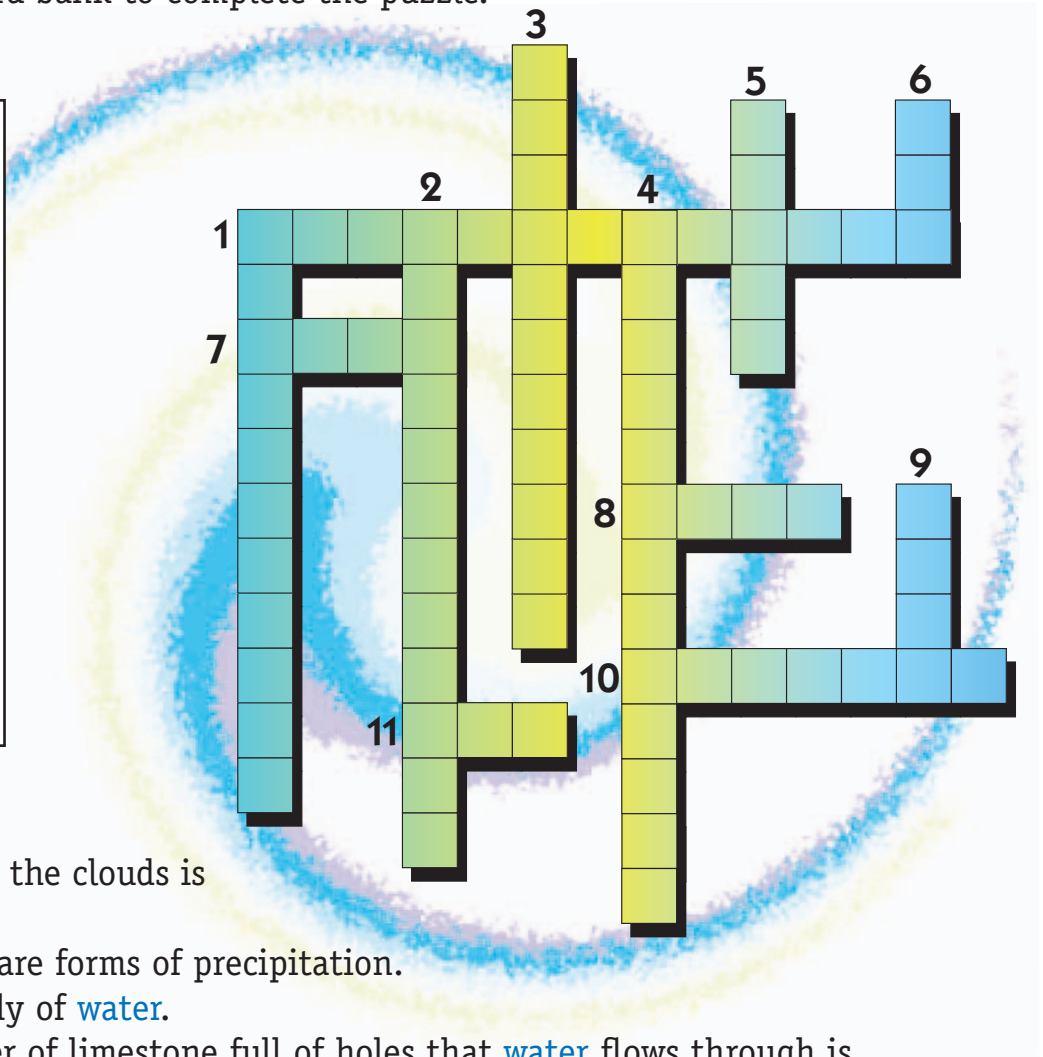


## WATER CYCLE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Use the clues and the word bank to complete the puzzle.

### Word Bank

aquifer  
sun  
transpiration  
percolation  
evaporation  
rain  
precipitation  
water  
lake  
pond  
ice  
condensation



### ACROSS

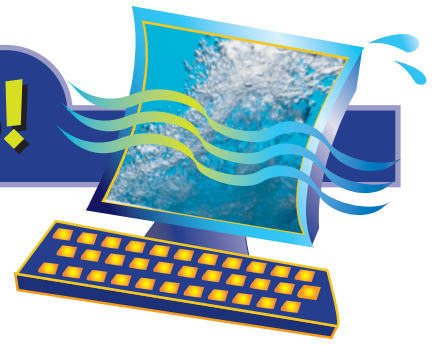
1. Moisture falling from the clouds is called \_\_\_\_.
7. Snow, hail and \_\_\_\_ are forms of precipitation.
8. A \_\_\_\_ is a small body of **water**.
10. An underground layer of limestone full of holes that **water** flows through is called an \_\_\_\_.
11. A solid form of **water** is called \_\_\_\_.

### DOWN

1. Downward movement of **water** through the ground is called \_\_\_\_.
2. Tiny droplets of **water** formed when **water** vapor cools is called \_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_ is the vapor created when the sun heats **water** in lakes, streams, rivers or oceans.
4. Vapor created when plants and trees give off moisture is called \_\_\_\_.
5. People, plants and animals need \_\_\_\_ to live.
6. The \_\_\_\_ provides energy for the never-ending **water** cycle.
9. A \_\_\_\_ is a body of **water** that is surrounded by land.



# What's Wet on the Web!



Naturally, **Bill Nye the Science Guy**® is simply full of cool information about almost everything! You can check out this great website by going to: [nyelabs.com](http://nyelabs.com).

Under the For Kids & Teachers link, click on Episode Guides to find the topic that interests you. The Earth Science section contains a variety of water-related topics including the water cycle episode.

## Find the Hidden Water Message!

|        |        |
|--------|--------|
| 1 = a  | 14 = n |
| 2 = b  | 15 = o |
| 3 = c  | 16 = p |
| 4 = d  | 17 = q |
| 5 = e  | 18 = r |
| 6 = f  | 19 = s |
| 7 = g  | 20 = t |
| 8 = h  | 21 = u |
| 9 = i  | 22 = v |
| 10 = j | 23 = w |
| 11 = k | 24 = x |
| 12 = l | 25 = y |
| 13 = m | 26 = z |

23 5 • 14 5 5 4 • 3 12 5 1 14, • 6 18 5 19 8

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Southwest Florida  
Water Management District

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