

## PRE-VISIT LESSONS

To prepare your students for the upcoming lesson on the water cycle, introduce the following vocabulary with this challenging word search.

## WATER WORD SEARCH

The purpose of this activity is to get your students familiar with some of the vocabulary we will be using during the water cycle lesson.

Use the back of previously used paper (to reduce and reuse) to copy the word search for your students.

Before the students try the word search, go over the vocabulary words and definitions below.

**Condensation:** when water vapor cools, it forms water drops.

**Evaporation:** when water heats up, it turns to gas vapors.

**Ice:** when water gets very cold, it turns into a solid.

**Infiltration:** when water soaks into the soil.

**Precipitation:** when water drops get too heavy to stay in the clouds, they fall as rain, snow or hail.

**Rivers:** natural stream of water that is fairly large.

**Pollution:** oils, garbage, chemicals that end up in water making it unhealthy for life

**Transpiration:** the release of water by plants through evaporation.

**Vapor:** when a liquid heats up, it changes from liquid to gas.

**Soil:** the ground, plants grow from it

**Living things:** plants and animals

**Bay:** a body of water usually where the end of a river and saltwater meet

**Clouds:** collection of particles of water or ice suspended in the air

**Water:** scientists call water H<sub>2</sub>O. Clean water is important to all of us.

## WATER CYCLE

N L V Z T N V R I K W T X P E  
O I E R R O R U O G Q D B K N  
I V C N O I T A S N E D N O C  
T I I R Q T W B S F Z X I Q H  
A N K X E A F I K U E T W A U  
R G Z E T T T C L O U D S P N  
O T U E V I A A R L P O I K M  
P H R D I P N W L I Y M L U P  
A I P E V I E O D V V O J J U  
V N I N V C P B V N Y E F K Q  
E G N F R E L I O S U A R G V  
N S B V A R Q L N P L O B W A  
E E O I N P A M N L E J R A P  
I N F I L T E R A T I O N G O  
W L D A B O A B E P Z E A T R

BAY  
EVAPORATION  
INFILTRATION  
PRECIPITATION  
VAPOR

CLOUDS  
GROUNDWATER  
LIVINGTHINGS  
RIVER  
WATER

CONDENSATION  
ICE  
POLLUTION  
SOIL

## **PRE-VISIT LESSON**

To prepare your students for the upcoming the water cycle, read your class the story or copy it for them to read alone or in groups (try making copies on the back of used paper).

### **MATERIALS NEEDED**

Story, *The Drop of Water that Wanted to Be Beautiful*

## **THE DROP OF WATER THAT WANTED TO BE BEAUTIFUL** Taken from International Office for Water Education

**The purpose of this lesson is to introduce the water cycle to your students.**

**After you have introduced the vocabulary to your students, read them the following story and ask them to listen to how the water drop travels through the water cycle.**

**When your class has heard or read the story, ask them to retell where the drop of water traveled through the water cycle. Encourage your students to draw some pictures of the different places or stages the water drop traveled along its journey.**

## **THE DROP OF WATER THAT WANTED TO BE BEAUTIFUL**

By: Dr. Donald R. Daugs

As I floated higher in the cloud, I thought about how I looked. I was freezing cold. I was without form. You could not say I was pretty or ugly. I changed to water and FROZE!

I fell so fast I did not have time to think about how I looked. Suddenly . . . the wind caught me. On my first trip up I was carried high in the cloud again. Another layer of ice froze around me. I made the up and down trip eight times. I was heavy enough to fall to the ground. I really was not very beautiful. I had eight layers of ice around me. I was a hailstone. At least I had lots of company. The ground was covered with hail.

I hadn't been lying on the warm ground long before I melted. I ran down the gutter with all the other drops. It was oily and smelly in the gutter. I really felt ugly.

Things were not so bad when we flowed into a river. It was cool and relaxing drifting along. I really got a surprise when a fish sucked me in its mouth. I was squirted out the gills.

That was just the beginning of a bad case of nerves. A farmer pumped me out of the river. Next, I was sprayed out on a cornfield. I tried to run back to the river. The ground was so dry that I did not make it back. At least it was dark under the ground. I could not see what I looked like.

Then I felt something wrap around me. Roots were pulling me toward them. What an experience! I was drawn right into the plant. I could not control where I went. I was drawn up the roots. Then I went through the stem and ended up in a leaf.

The sun was shining. It was really hot. I saw a hole on the bottom of the leaf. I leaned against the edge of the hole to rest. Just as I leaned against the hole, I became invisible. I evaporated. I was invisible water vapor. It is great to evaporate when you are ugly.

I drifted along in the air as water vapor for a long time. One afternoon I felt a cold breeze. Soon all the water vapor around me began to condense. I grabbed a piece of soot and became visible again. I pulled myself together and condensed.

It really bothered me that I had a dirty middle. All the water vapor had to condense on dust or dirt of some kind. It really did not improve my looks. It was necessary to have the dirt in my middle. I could hardly open my eyes. Things looked so grey. Soon I was so heavy I began to fall as rain. It was like a bad dream. Have you ever dreamed you were falling? What a terrible feeling.

When I woke I found myself in a muddy river. Things got worse. I already had dirt in my middle. Now I had clay floating over me. I was a dirty brown. I tried to get away from the dirty river for days. Finally I flowed into a big body of salt water. The clay settled to the bottom of the ocean. Now I was full of salt. One day when I was near the top of a wave, I broke free. I evaporated.

As I rose in the sky, I was happy to be an invisible water vapor again. One cold morning I condensed in some grass. I really felt fresh and clean. I was almost beautiful. I lasted as dew for only a few hours. The sun made me evaporate again.

I drifted north with the wind. The geese and the ducks were flying south. The leaves were falling off the trees. It got very cold as the wind blew from the north. It was below freezing. I could feel something very special happening to me. I was condensing into a snowflake. I had never seen anything so beautiful.

All the snowflakes around me were different. I was so special that no flake was exactly like me. I floated down to the glaciers of Greenland. I would last for years and years as a beautiful snowflake.