

The Water Cycle

Recommended Grade Level 4–6

Suggested Activities:

1. Before watching the video, have students sketch/diagram how the water cycle works. Students may return to their sketch during the video at the following times to add to or modify their sketch.
 - a. 1:32 – Have students look at their diagrams. Do they have these terms written down? If not, they can add now or after watching the video.
 - b. 1:32 – Ask at which of these stages water is a solid, liquid, or gas.
 - c. 3:55 – Have students sketch the energy source (the sun) that causes water to evaporate, how the molecules condense to form precipitation, and how gravity pulls water to the ground.
2. Pause the video at any or all of the following points and ask the following questions:
 - a. 2:37 – What will happen when the boy adds water to the cup?
 - b. 2:47 – Why was the boy able to pour the water in to a cup filled with rocks and sand? (answer: pore space).
 - c. 2:58 – What causes water change form? (answer: heat)
What is the energy source that is involved? (answer: sun)
3. The following Project WET 2.0¹ activities provide opportunities for students to learn about the water cycle and states of matter in greater detail:
 - a. The Incredible Journey
 - b. Molecules in Motion
4. The following Project WET 2.0 activity provides an opportunity for students to build on the ideas covered in Experiment #1:
 - a. Get the Ground Water Picture
5. The following activities provide opportunities for students to build on the ideas covered in Experiment #3:
 - a. Sparkling Water (Project WET 1.0)
 - b. Water Filtration Challenge, www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/teach/activity/water-filtration-challenge/, (NASA/JPL)

¹ For information on using the Project WET curriculum or bringing a training to your school contact www.projectwet.org/where-we-are/partners or education@water.ca.gov