



## Lesson Plan Ride a Water Cycle?

This lesson plan works very well with children preschool through second grade. The lesson lasts between 45 minutes to an hour, based on the number of books read. To orient the children to what it means to be a scientist, think scientifically and “do science,” use the **“A Scientist Is. . .”** and **“Scientific Method”** handouts available at the end of this lesson plan.

### SING

Begin with your favorite welcome song.

### SCIENCE CHAT

Begin a theme on the water cycle at circle time by freestyle asking the children what they know about where water on earth comes from. The following questions will lead the children into thinking about water as part of a cycle.

#### THE WATER CYCLE

**What is a cycle?** It sounds like the word “circle” and works like a “circle.”

**Where do we hear the word cycle?** Bicycle, Tricycle! Bikes with 2 or 3 wheels, so maybe the word “Cycle” comes from the word “Circle” or “Wheel!” Look around the room – point out things that are circles.

**Today we’re talking about the WATER CYCLE.** The water cycle is the way water travels from earth, through the air, to the clouds, and back to earth. It is circular, like a wheel!

**Water can be** wet like in the lakes, then it can be vapor like mist in the air, then it can be in the clouds and can come back to earth wet as rain or solid as snow or hail.

**Finally, have the children fill in the blank out loud: “WATER CAN BE \_\_\_\_\_” Use pictures at the end of this lesson plan to demonstrate.**

## READ

Suggestions from the Wisconsin Water Librarians, but feel free to swap out with your own OR visit our **subject specific reading list:** [Water Cycle](#).

READ [All the Water in the World \(2011\)](#) by George Ella Lyon and Katherine Tillotson

READ [One Well: The Story of Water on Earth \(2007\)](#) by Rochelle Strauss illus. Rosemary Woods

(Longer book, can be good for choosing some discussion topics or showing how water is vital all over the world and how important the water cycle/water distribution is all over the world)

READ: [Down Comes the Rain \(1997\)](#) by Franklyn M. Branley illustrated James Graham Hale

READ: [Water in the Park \(2013\)](#) by Emily Jenkins illustrated by Stephanie Graegin

READ: [A Drop around the World \(1998\)](#) by Barbara McKinney illustrated by Michael Maydak

## SING

Use any song you like adapted to the theme of the water cycle. Here is one suggestion:

### **SING: The Water in the Cycle (sing to “The Wheels on the Bus”)**

The Water in the Cycle goes Round and Round

Round and Round

Round and Round

The Water in the Cycle goes Round and Round

All through the Year

The water in the pond stays very still

Very still

Very still

The water in the pond stays very still

All through the year (cont. on next page)

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For more information, please contact:

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The sun makes the water evaporate

Evaporate

Evaporate

The sun makes the water evaporate

All through the year

The clouds in the sky are made of water

Made of water

Made of water

The clouds in the sky are made of water

All through the year

The rain on the ground falls drip, drop, splash

Drip drop splash

Drip drop splash

The rain on the ground falls drip drop splash

All through the year

The Water in the Cycle goes Round and Round

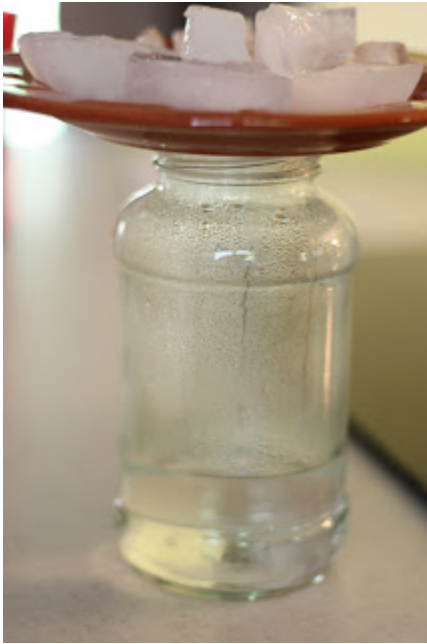
Round and Round

Round and Round

The Water in the Cycle goes Round and Round

All through the Year

## DO SCIENCE: MAKE IT RAN



**Adapted from:**

[http://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page\\_id=1733](http://www.weatherwizkids.com/?page_id=1733)

**Photo credit:**

<http://www.icanteachmychild.com/making-it-rain/>

**Supplies:**

Heavy glass jar  
Sturdy plate  
Ice  
Kettle of steaming water

**How To:**

Revisit the scientific method guides at the end of this lesson plan and have the children hypothesize, test, and record.

Pour about two inches of very hot water (at least steaming) into the glass jar.  
Cover the jar with the plate and wait a few minutes before you start the next step.  
Put the ice cubes on the plate.

What happens? The cold plate causes the moisture in the warm air, which is inside the jar to condense and form water droplets. This is the same thing that happens in the atmosphere. Warm, moist air rises and meets colder air high in the atmosphere. The water vapor condenses and forms precipitation that falls to the ground.

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## CRAFT IDEA: WATER CYCLE BEADED BRACELET

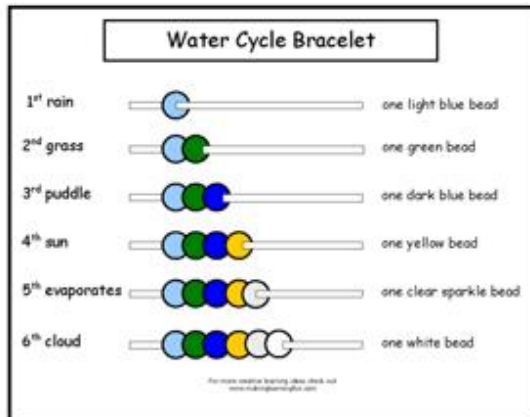
### Supplies:

Bracelet string

Threaded colored beads (6 different colors)

### How To:

There are many variations on this project and here is one example with a bracelet pictured.



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# Storm



# Clouds



# Fog



# Ocean



# River





# Lake



# Waterfall



# Rainbow



# Rain



# Ice

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## A SCIENTIST IS SOMEONE WHO...

- Observes and wonders
- Asks questions
- Listens to ideas of others
- Conducts experiments
- Shares his/her ideas and discoveries
- Explores the world around him/her
- Uses tools to solve problems

## A SCIENTISTS SAYS...

- I agree with you because...
- I disagree with you because...
- Why do you think that?
- So, what you're saying is...
- Can you tell me more?
- Can you give me an example?
- How could we test that?
- That reminds me of...



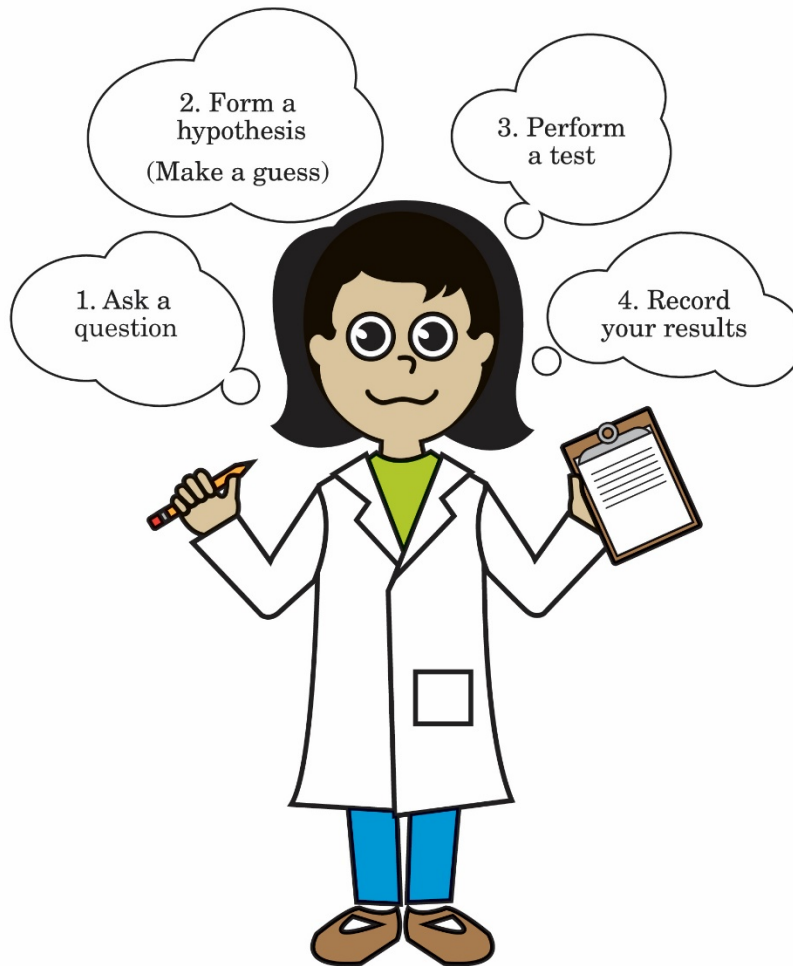
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# DOES IT SINK OR FLOAT? SCIENTIFIC METHOD

THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST



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