

Water cycle and terrarium



**Have you ever wondered about water?
Does water disappear? Is rain new water?**

Water doesn't really disappear forever or magically appear as new water.

In fact, the water that you see today is the same water that existed on Earth billions of years ago.

Water continuously recycles from the Earth to the atmosphere and back again. This is called the water cycle.



Try this experiment and create a mini Earth and discover the water cycle in action.

What you'll need...

- Large glass jar with lid or large soft drink bottle
- Small plant
- Potting mix
- Water
- Gloves
- Layer of sand, gravel and pebbles



Let's do this!

1. Add a layer of pebbles, gravel and sand then potting mix to the glass jar.
2. Plant your small plant. Add enough water to moisten the soil. Remember not to flood the jar with water!
3. Close the lid.
4. Place the terrarium beside a window with some sun but not too much or you'll bake your plant.
5. Observe changes in your terrarium over time.



Make a prediction!

What will I see happening inside the jar?

What happened?

Was I right?
How did this happen?
Would I get the same results without the ice?

Check out what we found in our experiment videos online.
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How does the water cycle work?

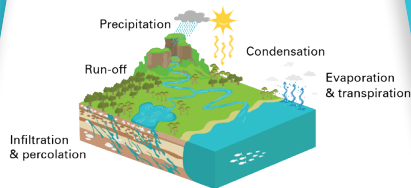
All water is continuously recycled from the Earth to the atmosphere and back again.

When it rains some rain flows into creeks, rivers and oceans. This is called **run-off**.

When water soaks into the soil this is called **infiltration**.

When it seeps even deeper into the Earth it's called **percolation**.

Precipitation is when water droplets fall from the sky as rain, snow or hail.



Natural water cycle

When the sun heats water, it turns it into a gas called water vapour. This is called **evaporation**.

Condensation is when water vapour in the air cools and forms tiny water droplets. This is how a cloud is made.

Did you know that people, plants and animals are also part of the water cycle?

We sweat or breath out small amounts of water into the air. This is called transpiration.

There's lots to learn about water!

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