

Water Cycle

Water Cycle activities are directly tied to the first spread - pages 1 and 2 of “Our Wetland Project”.

What is a water cycle?

Where does our water come from and where does it go?

In this lesson students will participate in discussions, brainstorming, and hands on activities to discover the continuous movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the earth.

Levels

All Grades

Subjects

Language Arts, Social Studies, Mathematics

Skills

Observing, Discussing, Dramatizing, Analyzing, Brainstorming

Concepts

Structure and function of earth cycles

Connections of science, society, and local landscapes

Objectives: Students will be able to:

Discuss illustrations that represent the water cycle

Assemble a bracelet with beads that represent the water cycle

Explain the components and importance of the water cycle

Calculate the percentage of fresh water available for human use

Explain why water is a limited resource

Materials (20 student class-size)

Water Cycle Bracelets

plastic beads - one of each color for each student

- white bead - condensation - clouds (need 2 per student of this color)
- light blue bead - precipitation - rain
- brown bead - the earth where the rain lands
- darker blue - rivers and lakes
- green bead - plants
- yellow bead - sun shining on the earth
- clear bead - evaporation

pipe cleaners - one per student

cups to hold each color of beads - 8 cups (2 for white beads)

(the white beads will be at the beginning and the end)

Time Considerations

Preparation - 30 minutes

Activity - 80 minutes

Lesson Overview

- **Water Cycle Chant** (10 minutes)
 - **Water Cycle Bracelets** (25 minutes)
 - **A Drop in a Bucket** (45 minutes)
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Background

Water is essential to all life and life activities. Plants and animals need water to survive.

Water is found throughout the world. It is in the soil, underground, marshes, swamps, ponds, streams, rivers, lakes, glaciers, oceans, clouds, and precipitation. There is a continual movement of these elements as they travel from one part of the hydrosphere to another. This is called the Water Cycle.