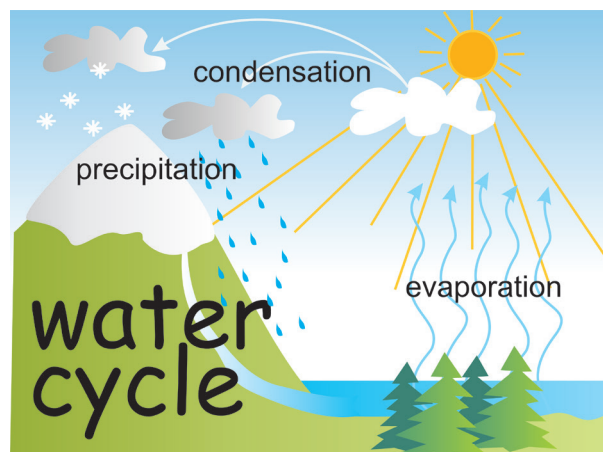


How to Teach the Water Cycle

Act it Out

- You will need one chair per student, and one for the teacher.
- Place the chairs in a large circle, and have the children stand inside the circle. You will stand on your chair.
- Tell the children that they are going to be the drops of water, and you are going to be the sun.
- Have them lie on the ground. Say, "Pretend you're a lake."
- When everyone is making a lake on the floor, stand on your tiptoes on the chair and spread your arms and fingers out as wide as you can, imitating the rays of the sun.
- Say, "I am the SUN; my rays are very hot! You are getting warmer and warmer lying there all bunched together! You are getting so hot, you begin to ri-i-i-se up slowly...you rise up, up, up until you are on the chairs, then you rise more until you are up in the sky. Say, 'e-vapor-a-tion, evaporation.'" With the kids repeating, "evaporation, evaporation," and slowly spiraling up and up until they are on the chairs, continue to shine your rays on them.
- When they are all on the chairs say, "Now that you are up in the sky together, little drops standing close together, something interesting is going to happen. Pretty soon the little drops will bump into other drops and they will make one really BIG drop. This is called con-den-sa-tion!" Have the children carefully bump into each other as they say, "Condensation, condensation." (You can have children stay on the floor rather than on chairs if you prefer.
- Say, "You are now BIG drops and you are going to fall to earth. As you do, say, 'Pre-ci-pi-tation, precipitation,'" and fall to the ground and make a lake."



Follow-up Activities

If you want to include a phonics lesson, these words lend themselves beautifully, as they all have the same ending.

With the words written really big on the board, point out a couple of things.

Note that all the words end with the same sound as in NATION. They are even alphabetized: R, S, and then T. The children could practice saying, "ration, sation, tation," with a nice little rhythm to it.



- For evaporation, reference the word vaporize. I think kids might relate to that from cartoons they have watched in which something got vaporized...and poosh! Went up in smoke, so to speak.
- For condensation, reference the difference between regular and condensed milk. One has been pushed together using heat to make it thicker and thicker. When something condenses, it gets smaller and tighter.
- For precipitation, relate the word to precipice, which is a cliff that someone could fall off of, if not careful. Challenge the children to draw a picture that shows all three of the terms, if desired.

Have the children draw the water cycle and write the words on their drawings to label the different actions in the skit. This will give them time to absorb and deepen their learning, and also give them time to get the learning into long-term memory. You can add the words to your word wall.

