



Become water-wise!



Chesapeake Bay

Water is used by many people in many ways.

People are not the only ones who need water, though. It is also a critical resource for crops and animals. The Earth, however, has a limited amount of water that constantly keeps going around and around in a cycle. In fact it's called the water cycle, and it has five steps: sunlight, condensation, precipitation, evaporation and accumulation.

The sun is the energy behind the cycle. Warmth from the sun causes the water in lakes, rivers and oceans to heat up and turn into water vapor. This is called evaporation.

During evaporation the water vapor goes up into the atmosphere, where it changes back into a liquid and forms clouds. This process is called condensation.

When the condensation in clouds

gets heavy enough, it falls to the Earth as precipitation. The temperature will determine whether that precipitation is liquid—rain—or solid—snow. Lastly, when precipitation gathers back on the Earth, this is called accumulation; and the cycle starts again!

Because water is so important for farmers there are several things that they do to conserve it and keep it clean. For example, they use watering systems that put water directly at crop plants' roots so more water goes straight to the plant instead of evaporating. Farmers also water crops at times when the plants will benefit most. Many of them also plant trees and grasses between their crops and streams to create a buffer zone.

What are some things that you can do at your house to conserve and protect water?

QUESTION & ANSWERS

Q: What moves nutrients in your body and dirt in the streets?

A: Water

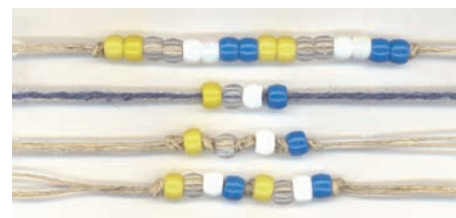
Q: What do your body and the planet Earth have in common?

A: Both control their temperatures with water.

Q: What can live a month without food but only a week without water?

A: You!

WEARING THE WATER CYCLE: Create your own bracelet!

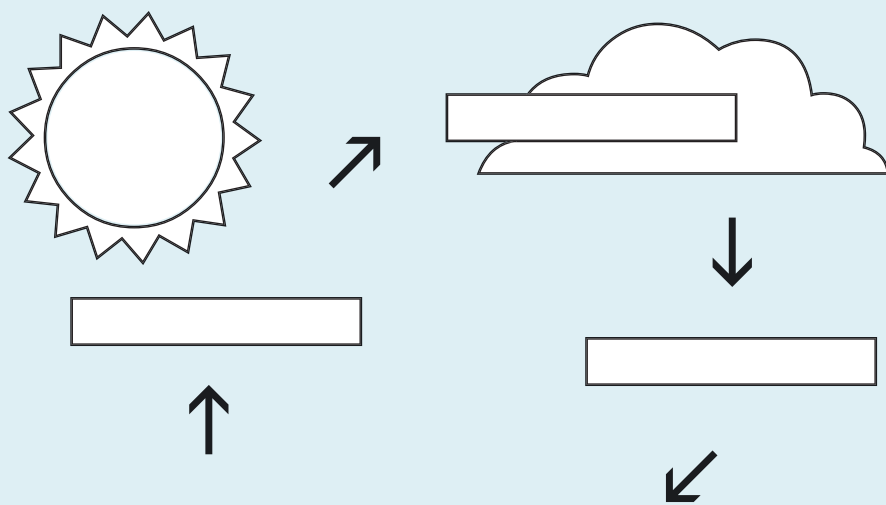


MATERIALS

- white beads, blue beads, clear beads and yellow beads
- yarn or a leather strap

Directions

1. String your beads on the bracelet in the following order:
 - yellow, to represent the sun
 - clear, for evaporation, which is caused by the sun
 - white, for condensation in the clouds
 - blue, for precipitation that falls from the clouds when the condensation gets too heavy.
2. Tie the loose ends around your wrist to wear your own water cycle bracelet!



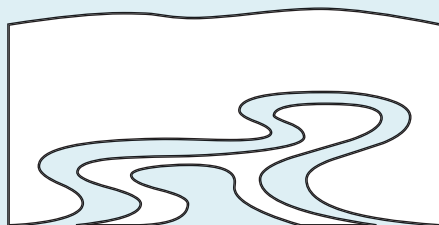
TRY THIS!

COLOR AND LABEL THE WATER CYCLE

Use words from the Word Bank below.

Word Bank:

- evaporation
- precipitation
- condensation



Water Words

E N W M K N E V R E S N O C R
 J C O R S O P U H V T S L E E
 L R N I M I X E C U D N W V F
 X O B X T T S J O U B A V A F
 H P K N I A R L O P T N E P U
 V S K U I L T L A E L A B O B
 N E M R X U C I R M R E F R X
 R U D Z P M E C P T I J K A B
 V P S L B U Y P H I Y N L T C
 L V A B Y C G W E V C L A I I
 F Z N P L C Y F A R M E R O J
 V S X E T A Z L G Z Q S R N B
 C O N D E N S A T I O N F P H
 W Q S H P K Q F B R F L V B C
 Z U S C O O C Z X T B R J C X

accumulation
 animals
 buffer
 clouds
 condensation
 conserve
 crops
 earth
 evaporation
 farmer
 people
 precipitation
 rain
 sun
 water cycle

Answers on page 29.