

WATERDROPS

Water Cycle Issue

Teacher's Guide

Welcome to the water cycle issue of WaterDrops! As part of the Splash! Water Resources Education program, the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD) offers this water resources newsletter for elementary students. The newsletter is correlated to grades 3–5 of the Sunshine State Standards and provides an interesting way for students to increase their awareness and respect for our precious water resources. To help you prepare your students for testing, we have included WaterDrops Challenge, which contains items similar to those that may appear on the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT).

This issue of WaterDrops focuses on the water cycle. It includes fiction, nonfiction, writing, drawing and problem-solving activities, games, and web sites to explore. You may also contact us for a free hydrologic cycle poster to display. Let WaterDrops make a splash in your classroom today!

Many other free materials are available from the SWFWMD and can be ordered online at WaterMatters.org/publications/. We also offer water resources workshops for teachers. Please contact us if you have any questions or suggestions about our water resources education programs.

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Hello Readers!

Water is one of our most important resources. Discuss the need to use water wisely. Ask students to list ways to conserve water. Examples might include: take shorter showers, turn the water off when you are washing your face or brushing your teeth, don't toss into the toilet what can go into a wastebasket, check for leaks or drips in faucets or toilets, etc.

Sunshine State Standard: SC.D.2.2.1

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Water Drips & Drops

It's fun to learn facts about water. Discuss the concept of water going through a never-ending cycle since the beginning of time.

Sunshine State Standard: SC.H.2.2.1

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Feature Story

Read the story together and discuss the different parts of the water cycle. Point out how each part relates to other parts in the cycle. Discuss solar energy, evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transpiration and percolation. Explain the importance of each part to the continuous cycle. Ask students to complete the writing assignment. Share a few of the stories with the rest of the class.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.A.2.2.5, LA.B.2.2.3, LA.B.2.2.5, SC.B.1.2.1, SC.D.1.2.3

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Take It Home

Prepare your students for the activity that they will do at home. You may even want to do a demonstration of the experiment in the classroom. Make sure that students have the materials they need to complete the experiment. Ask students to read the directions for making the miniature water cycle. Encourage students to try the experiment at home. Ask students to share their notes and draw conclusions about what they learned about the water cycle.

Sunshine State Standards: SC.D.1.2.3, SC.G.1.2.3, SC.H.1.2.5

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Ask Water Cycle Wanda

Select two students to play the roles of Sherita and Water Cycle Wanda. Ask these students to read their parts. Identify places where students may be able to locate additional information about trees and the process of transpiration. Sources of information may include books, pamphlets, the Internet, etc.

Sunshine State Standard: SC.A.1.2.2

Southwest Florida
Water Management District

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