



# Water Cycle Relay

## Utah Science

### Purpose

After learning about the water cycle, students will display their knowledge in a relay game.

**Time:** 20 minutes

**Level:** Elementary

### Materials

- 2 trays of ice cubes
- 2 spoons
- Tape
- 2 sets of vocabulary words on slips of paper (see step #3)
- Large copy of the Hydrologic Cycle (see page 6)
- Bucket

### Background

#### THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE

Below the surface of the Earth  
In between particles of dirt  
That's where this water is found  
Saturating everything deep underground  
*Groundwater*

In between and all around  
Through the soil without a sound  
Water seeping down down down  
Slowly moving underground  
*Aquifers/Percolation*

Heat from the sun makes water rise  
Up as vapor to the skies  
*Evaporation*

Cumulus, stratus, cirrus too,  
Water vapor visible in skies of blue  
*Cloud*

Down is the direction this water falls  
As crystals, drips or even balls  
*Precipitation*

Once a gas but then it's changed  
Into a liquid to be seen again  
*Condensation*

From the pores of plants  
Water vapor escapes  
Into the air without a trace  
*Transpiration*

I start as a trickle and then I grow  
Picking up speed as down I go  
Over the surface from land to the sea  
Obeying the laws of gravity  
*Runoff*

Water going round and round  
Changing form but not amount  
*The Hydrologic Cycle*

### Activity Procedures

1. Divide the class into two teams. Show them The Hydrologic Cycle, pointing out the missing vocabulary words that describe the steps in the cycle. Explain that they will fill in these blanks with the missing words in the course of a water cycle relay race.
2. Pass out a spoon and a tray of ice cubes to each group. As part of the relay, each group will place an ice cube on the spoon and pass both from the back of the line to the front of the line. Let the groups practice passing