

Water, Water, Water

Take a rain walk – and explore the wonderful world of water.



What you need

Pictures of water (ice, liquid, and steam), Old magazines (optional), Paper, Crayons or pencils, Ice cube, Cup of hot water, Cup of lukewarm water

Time

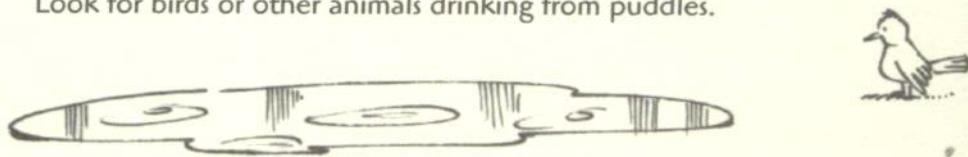
30 minutes

1

Get Started by showing children pictures of rivers, ponds, waterfalls, ice-skating rinks, snow, and clouds. What does every picture have in common? If possible, have children drink from a water fountain. What does the water taste like? What does it look like?

2

Take a walk in a park or field just after a rain shower. Ask children to use their senses to notice how the grass, trees, flowers, roads, and sidewalks smell and feel. What do they look like? Do children see any puddles? Is the fresh rainwater warm or cold? Ask where they think rain comes from. Look for birds or other animals drinking from puddles.



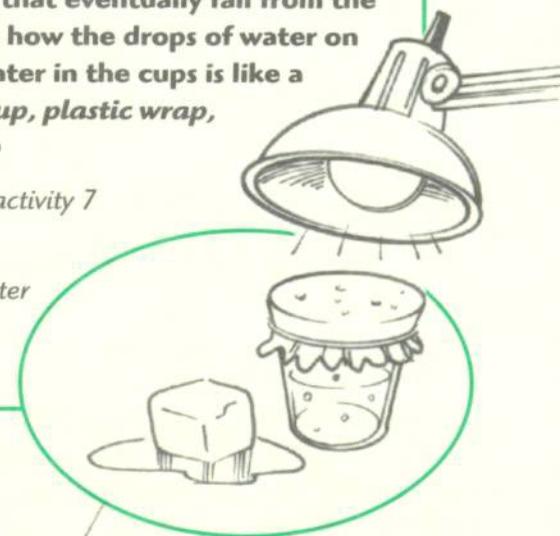
CREATE A MINI-WATER CYCLE!

If possible, show older children an ice cube, a cup of water, and steam rising from a cup of hot water. Discuss what makes ice turn into water, and what makes water turn into steam. What would eventually happen to the hot water in the cup if you continued to heat it up? Fill a plastic cup about halfway with water. Fasten plastic wrap securely over the top using a rubber band. Shine a strong light on the cup (at least 60 watts). Set the experiment away from children during the half hour and make sure they don't touch the light bulb. In about half an hour, children should be able to see water drops forming on the plastic wrap and falling back into the water. Discuss how the sun's heat turns water on the ground into steam, and that the steam then rises and forms clouds. As the steam rises, it begins to cool and turns into drops of water that eventually fall from the sky back to the ground. Help children to see how the drops of water on the plastic wrap are like rain and how the water in the cups is like a body of water. **Materials:** Ice cube, plastic cup, plastic wrap, rubber band, water, 60-watt bulb and lamp

For more watery fun, try following this activity with activity 7 (Water Watching).



Try to reuse the cups and plastic wrap in later projects. Children can use them to make trash crafts in activity 10.



3

Close by having children draw a picture of a plant or animal (including themselves!) on a piece of paper showing how it uses water. Encourage children to present their drawings to the group. Read *Rain* by Kay Davies (New Jersey: Raintree-Steck Vaughn, 1995) or *Water, Water, Everywhere*, by Mark J. Rauzon (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books for Children, 1994). Why is water important for all living things—including humans?