

## Water Cycle in a Bag

Grade level: 2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup>

Standard/GLE Code: SC.2.3.1, SC.4.3.1, SC.5.3.4, SC.MS.3.6

Time commitment: 20 minutes to set up, several days to observe

Materials Needed:

- Clear zip-top bag, sandwich sized or bigger
- Water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Strong tape
- Sunny window
- Ice
- Permanent marker
- Handful of dirt (optional)

Educational Messages:

- Students observe the parts of the water cycle inside a clear bag.
- Water moves through the water cycle in three different forms—as a liquid, solid or vapor. See all three forms in this experiment.

### Water Cycle Experiment

Directions:

1. Draw the steps of the water cycle onto your bag as pictured in the video and below.
2. Fill the bottom of the bag with water up to about where you drew your ocean. You can add blue food coloring to the water, if desired.
3. Seal the bag and tape it to a window that typically gets a lot of sun.
4. As the water heats up the steps of the water cycle will be visible in the bag!

### Try This!

Add some water and some ice to a zip-top bag. With the opening of the bag almost closed, blow a few puffs of air into the bag. Can you see the water vapor?

Alternate idea:

- Put a handful of dirt in the zip-top bag.
- Sprinkle a little water on the dirt, just enough to make it moist.
- Close the bag tight and tape it to the sunny window.
- Clean up your mess and watch what happens in the bag.



Watch the [video](#):

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZB44\\_X0pFw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZB44_X0pFw)

Sources: Cherry Creek Valley Ecological Park Activity Book, 2006, Parker Jordan Metropolitan District; Fox 21 News, Science Museum Oklahoma