

The Journey of a Water Drop

Creating a Water Cycle Wheel

Objective:

Students combine science and art to make a water cycle wheel that shows the journey down the Rio Grande. They will be able to describe a cycle and understand the basic concept of the water cycle.

Materials:

Poem (see page 2), wheel activity pages (see pages 3 and 4 of this document), thin cardboard (old file folders, cereal boxes, cardstock/tagboard), brass fasteners, scissors, crayons & black markers.

Vocabulary:

Cycle, water cycle, liquid, gas, solid.

Leading the Activity:

1. Discuss the water cycle with the students. Have them define a cycle, (i.e. Seasons are a cycle, Life cycle, what do the wheels on a bicycle do?). Then discuss water and its different forms; liquid, gas, and solid (what form is water/rain/river/ocean?, what form is a cloud?, what form is ice/snow?). Tell the students they will be making their own water cycle wheels.
2. Pass out copies of the activity pages to each student. Have the students color the wheels, glue them onto pieces of cardboard, then cut them out along the dotted lines.
3. Place the wheel with pictures behind the wheel with the cut out and poke a hole through the center of both. Use a brass fastener to connect the wheels. The top wheel should move around freely.
4. Read the poem aloud to your students and as the poem is read have them follow along with the journey using their water cycle wheels.
5. If you are using this project in conjunction with a visit from the BioVan have your students bring their wheels to the BioVan Program to follow the water cycle of the Rio Grande. Or, discuss what they saw in the program and how it relates to their wheels.

The Journey of a Water Drop

- by Bonnie Dils, 1998

It started with a bang and a boom and a crash,
Followed by a splish and a splat and splash.
First one raindrop, two raindrops, three raindrops, four-
From out of the cloud came a heavy downpour.

"Hey this is fun, I don't want it to end!"
Said a raindrop as he fell to the ground with his friends.
So the raindrops decided to travel the land,
Trickling into the Rio Grande.

"BRRR!" said a drop, "it's chilly up here,"
As they passed through mountain forests with elk and with bear.
"Let's head south to see what we find,"
said the cold little water drop, leaving the others behind.

The water drops flowed into the Rio Grande Valley,
Where the water flowed slower, it dillied and dallied.
From corn to alfalfa, there were crops on the ground,
and some of the drops chose to hang around.

"We're tired of traveling," some water drops said,
and they flowed into a field, needing to be irrigated.
The rest of the water drops made their way south,
to the end of the river, and they flowed out its mouth.

Now they were in the Gulf of Mexico,
Where the fresh waters and the salt waters flow.
And as the warm sea breezes played with the surf,
Some drops evaporated, and rose high off the earth.

As the temperature grew colder, they condensed all together,
Forming a cloud and creating new weather.
And just as the water drops found their old friends,
The cycle started all over again.

SCAN and incorporate Journey of a Water Drop Top and Bottom wheels into this document!

