LET'S GO!

The Amazing Journey of a Raindrop

Where does rain come from? Follow a drop through the water cycle!



November 2026

OUR PLAN

What We'll Learn Today

Our roadmap for the water cycle lesson, from sunshine to rain.

01 The journey of a raindrop

02 Evaporation and condensation

03 Precipitation and collection

04 Mini water cycle experiment

05 Quiz and key words

THE HOOK

Every raindrop has taken an incredible journey

The water in a raindrop may once have floated in a cloud above the ocean, a puddle in your playground, or even a dinosaur's pond[10].

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THE BIG IDEA

Water is always moving in a giant loop

The same water goes round and round: up into the sky, then back down to Earth again.

- **A loop with no start** — Water keeps cycling between Earth and sky forever.
- **Four stages** — Evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.
- **Powered by the Sun** — Heat lifts water up; gravity pulls it back down.
- **Same water, new place** — Today's rain once flowed in a river or ocean.



STEP 1

The Sun heats water and it floats up as vapour

Evaporation turns liquid water into invisible vapour that rises into the sky.

01

The Sun warms up

Sunlight heats oceans, lakes, rivers and puddles.

02

Water turns to vapour

Liquid water becomes an invisible gas called vapour.

03

Vapour floats upward

Light vapour rises from the sea into the sky.

04

Journey continues

The vapour travels up toward colder air above.

STEP 2

Water vapour cools down and makes clouds

High in the sky, cooling vapour turns back into tiny droplets that form clouds.

- **Condensation** — vapour cools high up and turns back into liquid droplets
- **Clouds** — millions of tiny droplets huddle together in the sky
- Spotted it? Mist on a cold window is condensation too[10]



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STEP 3

Clouds get heavy and water falls back down

When droplets grow too heavy, gravity pulls them back to Earth as precipitation.

- **Precipitation** — rain, snow, sleet and hail all fall from clouds[9]
- **Too heavy** — gravity pulls droplets down when clouds get full
- **Droplets merge** — tiny drops join together inside the cloud
- **Watch for it** — rain is precipitation you can see outside[10]

9 thetinytutors.com › 10 Best Water Cycle Activity for Kids [Free

10 owoo.world › Free Water Cycle Worksheet KS2 (Ages 8-10) | Ow

EXPERIMENT

Let's Make a Mini Water Cycle in a Bowl!

Build evaporation, condensation and precipitation right on your desk.

01

Warm Water

Pour water into the bowl — the warm water acts like the Sun[7]

02

Add a Mug

Place an empty mug in the centre to catch the rain[3]

03

Cover and Chill

Seal with cling film and ice cubes to mimic condensation[2]

04

Watch It Rain

Vapour fogs the film, turns to droplets, and drips down[5]

7 imtheshefftee.com › Fun Water Cycle Project for Kids: Easy How

3 scienceastruck.com › Water Cycle: An Easy Explanation for Kids

2 tamingliittlemonsters.com › Easy Working Indoor Water Cycle Sc

5 lessons4littleones.com › Water Cycle, Rain Cycle Science Expe



STEP 4

Collecting water: rivers, lakes and oceans

Water gathers in rivers, lakes and oceans — ready to start the cycle all over again.

- **Rivers** — Rain runs downhill and joins streams and rivers
- **Lakes and oceans** — Droplets gather in big pools of collected water
- **The loop restarts** — The Sun warms collected water and evaporation begins

VOCABULARY

Key Words to Remember

Four words that explain where every raindrop comes from[10].

01 Evaporation
The Sun heats water and it floats up as vapour.

02 Condensation
Vapour cools down and turns into droplets, making clouds[2].

03 Precipitation & Collection
Droplets get heavy and fall as rain, then gather in rivers and lakes[5].

1 thewaterproject.org › The Water Cycle Explained | Grades 6–12 |
2 taminglittlemonsters.com › Easy Working Indoor Water Cycle Sc
5 lessons4littleones.com › Water Cycle, Rain Cycle Science Expe
10 owcaworld › Free Water Cycle Worksheet KS2 (Ages 8–10) | Ov

Sources

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3 **Water Cycle: An Easy Explanation for Kids | ScienceStruck**

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5 **Water Cycle, Rain Cycle Science Experiments and Craftivity**

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7 **Fun Water Cycle Project for Kids: Easy Home Experiments | I'm the Chef Too**

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9 **10 Best Water Cycle Activity for Kids [Free Ideas]**

thetinytutors.com

10 **Free Water Cycle Worksheet KS2 (Ages 8-10) | Owee**

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