



# WATER CYCLE IN A BAG

## Here's what to do:

1. If you have a marker, draw the water cycle on the outside of your bag. The part of the bag that opens and closes should be the top of your drawing. Though this step is optional, it does help visualize what is going on. If you need a model of the water cycle, check out Emily's video.
2. Pour 1/4 cup of water into your bag. If you have access to food coloring, try adding a couple of drops to the water. With water pooled at the bottom of your bag, what step of the water cycle would this be?
3. Hang your bag on a window using tape. Try to select a place that gets direct sunlight!
4. Leave your bag in the window for an hour.
5. After an hour, check back on the bag. What do you notice? Does there appear to be less water gathered at the bottom of the bag? What could cause this? Does it appear foggy in the bag? Do you detect any signs of condensation?
6. Keep monitoring the bag and making observations. What happens when water droplets form on the bag? Are the droplets big or tiny? What would happen if they got very big?

**Through your observations, see if you can observe all four stages of the water cycle. There are lots of ways to further experiment with this exploration.**

Instead of using the heat from the sun, could you use an incandescent lightbulb?

Would evaporation begin sooner if you started with warm or cool water?

Does fresh or salt water evaporate faster?

What would happen if you used a larger or smaller bag

Could you still create a water cycle in a bag if you laid the bag flat on a table but still in the sun's rays?

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## EXAMPLE

