

Water cycle in a bag experiment

You will need:

- 1 zip lock bag
- Water mixed with blue food colouring
- A blue and black permanent marker or any two different coloured markers
- Glue

Steps:

1. Design your water cycle bag using permanent markers – include the words evaporation, condensation and precipitation, along with diagrams of the sun, clouds and rain and arrows to show movement around the water cycle.
2. Pour a few cm of blue water into the bottom of the zip lock bag.
3. Tape or hang to a window where the light changes throughout the day. Enjoy watching the water cycle in action as water evaporates, condenses into drips on the side and ‘precipitates’ as it falls down the bag back into the water at the bottom.

Extension ideas:

- Write or draw a procedural text to explain how to make the water cycle in a bag
- Experiment by placing your water cycle bag in a sunny warm area and observe over time – notice what changes. Place your bag in a cool shady area and observe over time – what’s the difference? Discuss how warm air and sunshine speed up evaporation.

