

Living in the Water Cycle

To help your child learn more about the water cycle and how it demonstrates interactions among the **hydrosphere**, **atmosphere**, **geosphere**, and **biosphere**, experience it together in nature. Take your child outside with a digital camera. Have your child take a wide variety of pictures from nature that are related to the water cycle, such as puddles, streams, the ocean, clouds, raindrops, snowbanks, sunlight, and the sky. If a camera is not available, have your child draw sketches and write brief descriptions. Encourage your child to be creative and to include pictures of unique examples of the water cycle, such as soil, leaves, small animals, ice cubes, and people. If possible, have your child take or draw multiple pictures of the same type of object to form a collage that exemplifies the variety found in nature. You can also have your child find examples of the water cycle inside the home. Suggestions of examples include a steamy mirror, a glass of water, and a pot of boiling water. (Take precautions when children are around hot objects).



All these images represent the water cycle in action.



After returning home, print out the pictures (if using a digital camera). Gather poster board, glue, and some markers. Using the pictures, have your child create a personal poster of the water cycle for your own backyard. Arrange the pictures according to the Earth system they best represent. For example, wet soil would represent the geosphere. Use the markers to label and describe the parts of the water cycle. Then, have your child present the project to other family members, explaining what he or she learned about the water cycle and the interactions of Earth's systems.

Here are some questions to discuss with your child:

1. Was it hard to find objects to photograph or draw that represented the water cycle? Why?
2. How do you interact with the water cycle every day?
3. Which of Earth's systems was easiest to find pictures to represent? Why?
4. Which of Earth's systems was most difficult to find pictures to represent? Why?