



Lesson Extension

Earth Science 12: The Water Cycle

Today in class we got to travel through the water cycle as though we, ourselves, were water. With this activity, we'll get to create a physical water cycle model.

Mini-Earth Water Cycle

For this activity, you will build a model earth biome using a plastic food container, dirt, rocks, leaves, and the sun.

Materials:

- Plastic food container with a clear top such as a rotisserie chicken container (see image below)
- Small plastic bowl
- Rocks, dirt, and leaves
- Bright, warm lamp or a flat space near a sunny window

Procedure:

1. Collect some dirt, rocks, and leaves from outside to build the earth inside your model earth
2. Fill a small bowl with water
3. Arrange the water, rocks, dirt, and leaves inside the food container and close the lid. (Do not add dirt to the bowl of water)
4. Place your model biome in a warm sunny window, or else under a bright, hot light bulb.
5. After 1-2 hours, observe the changes. Check again the next day.



Analysis:

1. What happened to the water in the bowl? Why?
2. What happened on the "ceiling" of your biome? Why?
3. Are the things inside the model biome wet or dry? Why?



Go Further:

- Interactive water cycle poster: <http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>
- How to collect water from plants: <http://www.wikihow.com/Collect-Water-From-Plants>