

The Water Cycle

Earth's water is always in movement, and the water cycle, also known as the hydrologic cycle, describes the continuous movement of water on, above, and below the surface of the Earth. Since the water cycle is truly a cycle, there is no beginning or end.

Although the balance of water on Earth remains fairly constant over time, individual water molecules can come and go in a hurry. The water in the apple you ate yesterday may have fallen as rain halfway around the world last year or could have been used 100 million years ago by Mama Dinosaur to give her baby a bath.

Idea: Ask students to describe other cycles they know.

Idea: Discuss other materials that are in liquid, vapor and solid states.

Idea: Have students identify water sources around your area. Discuss where the school's water comes from and how it's treated. Do they get their home water from a city system, rural water district, well or other source?

Idea: Have students record and graph precipitation or chart monthly or annual rainfall of the past.

Career Corner

Idea: Visit a water treatment facility or a conservation site to learn about the jobs of the people.

Idea: Have students list and possibly research other careers that involve soil and water.

Idea: Ask someone from the local Natural Resources Conservation Service or Soil Conservation District to visit the class and talk about their career.

