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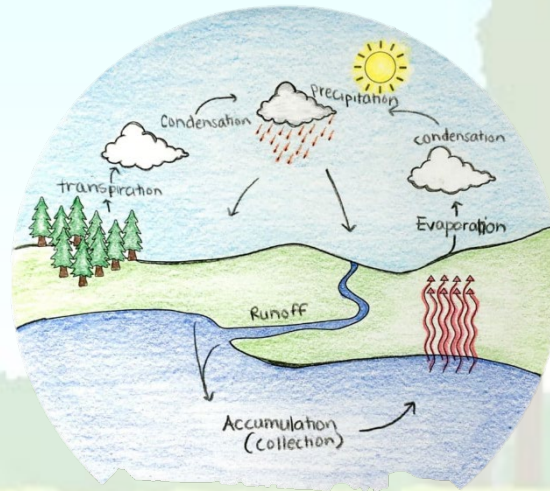
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# Water Quality

## Mini Water Cycle Activity

### What is the Water Cycle?

The water cycle uses the heat of the sun to take water from the surface of the Earth up into the air in tiny droplets. When the droplets cool, forming clouds and once these clouds get heavy, water droplets (rain) will fall back to Earth as rain, collecting in rivers, lakes and oceans, again.



### Building your own Mini Water Cycle!!

#### **Materials you will need:**

- A large bowl, a glass one is good, but not required
- Plastic wrap
- A cup that is shorter than the height of the bowl
- Small stones for weight
- Some dirt
- A cup of water

#### **Directions:**

Find a sunny spot and place the empty cup in the middle of the bowl. Now place the dirt in the bowl around the base of the cup (about 1 inch deep). Pour the water into the dirt. Cover the top of the bowl with the plastic wrap, making sure that there are no gaps between the plastic wrap and the edge of the bowl. Weigh down the edges of the plastic wrap to keep it secure and place one small stone in the middle of the plastic wrap directly above the cup. No part of the plastic wrap should be touching the edge of the cup. Let it sit in the sun for a few hours. Eventually, you should see water droplets collecting on the plastic wrap and dripping into the cup. Look at the water in the cup and see if it is clean of mud! If it is clear, how would you describe how that happened?

