



Water cycle in a bottle

Did you know? There is still the same amount of water on the Earth today as we had when the dinosaurs roamed the Earth?

Water is essential to survival and at Hunter Water, providing fresh, clean drinking water is what we do. As humans we need constant access to this fresh water supply to grow our food, wash our clothes and, most importantly, to drink. Therefore, it is important that we understand the natural water cycle so as we can collect as much of it as we can!



What you need:

- Jar with a lid
- Hot water - Ask and adult to assist
- Permanent marker



Method:

1. Draw pictures on the side of the jar to represent clouds, sun and water
2. Remove lid, pour boiling water into jar and re-apply lid
3. Observe water condensation on the sides of the jar, as they get heavier they will pool together and fall to the bottom of the jar. Just like rain!

What did we learn?

The sun heats the water and draws it from the land, it evaporates up into the atmosphere and condensates to create clouds. This then falls as precipitation or rain.

Now you know how the natural water cycle works! It's important to know there is no guarantee where this rain will fall. It could fall onto other catchments, onto the land or into the ocean.

This is why it is important to conserve what we do catch in our catchments. Even though our dams and catchments are very large, they can evaporate quickly and levels can fall rapidly, especially during the warmer months. So what can you do to conserve water and make the most of our rain that we do receive?

- Take short 4 min showers
- Only water your garden before 10am and after 4pm to avoid evaporation
- Sweep hard surfaces

Together we can reduce our water usage and use our knowledge of the water cycle to our advantage.



For more experiments or educational resources visit:
hunterwater.com.au/schools