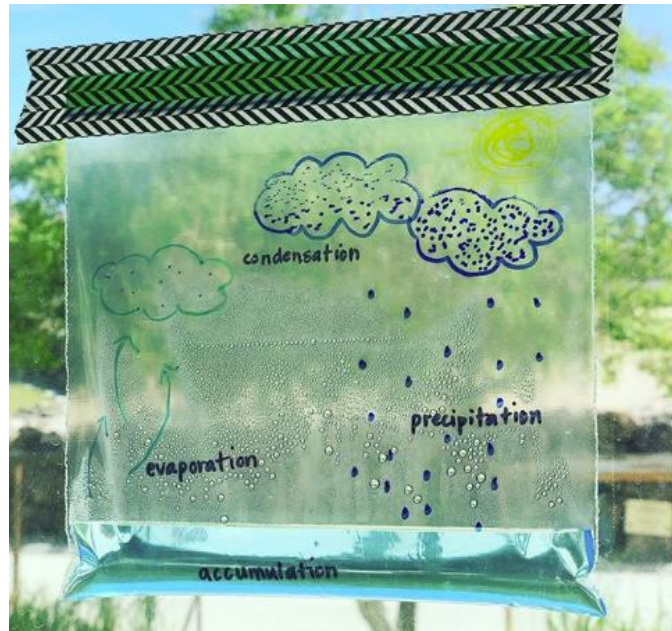


WATER CYCLE DIY

The water cycle is a very important part of our ecosystem and essential to life as we know it on Earth! In this activity we recreate the water cycle in a plastic bag!

Materials needed:

- Plastic bag
- Water
- Markers
- Tape
- Food coloring (optional)



Directions:

1. Label the bag with markers with the four main portions of the water cycle: accumulation (or collection), evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. It should look similar to the above picture. Feel free to add your own drawings (clouds, sea, land, or the sun) to make it your own!
2. Fill your bag about an inch full of water. You can add food coloring to make it easier to see if you choose.
3. Find a window in your home that receives some sunlight and tape the bag to the window. You should make sure that the zipper part of the bag is facing upright.
4. Depending on how warm the window is will determine how long it will take for you water cycle to start!

STEM Background:

The water cycle is Earth's way of ensuring life has a continuous supply of water. When traveling to space, we have to consider how we can recycle water. In order for the ISS to run efficiently, engineers developed the "Water Recovery System" (WRS) and was put into effect in November 2008. The WRS reduced the need to be resupplied from Earth and makes it possible to have twice as many people on board. Visit www.nasa.gov to learn more about this unique system.