



The Water Cycle

(Activity adapted from *Project Wet*):

https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/education_safety/education/project_wet/sample_activity.pdf

A. To prepare, teachers will need to print a copy of the handout below and match the instructions to the appropriate station.

B. Each student represents a water molecule.

Students are placed at 8 different stations:

- St. Lawrence River,
- Lake Ontario,
- Animal,
- Ground water,
- Soil,
- Plant,
- Pond,
- Clouds

There should be an even number at each station, apart from clouds, if needed.

- o Students line up and the person at the front rolls a die. The worksheet below instructs students where to go next. If the card says 'stay,' they move to the back of the line.
- o Students should carry a notebook with them to track which stations they go to.

C. Teacher leads discussion.

Discussion Prompt: How is the Indigenous notion of the interconnectedness of all beings similar to and different from Western scientific ideas on the water cycle?



Soil

- 1: Plant** – water is absorbed by plant roots
- 2: St. Lawrence River** – the soil is saturated, so water runs off into the river
- 3: Ground Water** – water is pulled by gravity; it filters into the soil
- 4: Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 5: Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 6: Stay** – water remains on the surface (ex. In a puddle or adheres to soil particle)

Plant

- 1: Clouds** – water leaves the plant through the process of transpiration
- 2: Clouds** – water leaves the plant through the process of transpiration
- 3: Clouds** – water leaves the plant through the process of transpiration
- 4: Clouds** – water leaves the plant through the process of transpiration
- 5: Stay** – water is used by the plant and stays in the cells
- 6: Stay** – water is used by the plant and stays in the cells



St. Lawrence River

- 1: **Pond** – water flows into a lake
- 2: **Ground Water** – water is pulled by gravity; it filters into the soil
- 3: **Lake Ontario** – water flows into Lake Ontario
- 4: **Animal** – an animal drinks water
- 5: **Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 6: **Stay** – water remains in the current of the river

Clouds

- 1: **Soil** – water condenses and falls on soil
- 2: **Lake Ontario** – water condenses and falls into the lake
- 3: **Lake Ontario** – water condenses and falls into the lake
- 4: **Pond** – water condenses and falls into a nearby pond
- 5: **Pond** – water condenses and falls into a nearby pond
- 6: **Stay** – water remains as a water droplet clinging to a dust particle

Lake Ontario

- 1: **Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 2: **Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 3: **Stay** – water remains in the lake
- 4: **Stay** – water remains in the lake
- 5: **Stay** – water remains in the lake
- 6: **Stay** – water remains in the lake

Pond

- 1: **Ground Water** – water is pulled by gravity; it filters into the soil
- 2: **Animal** – an animal drinks the water
- 3: **St. Lawrence River** – water flows into a river
- 4: **Clouds** – heat energy is added to the water, so the water evaporates and goes to the clouds
- 5: **Stay** – water remains in the pond
- 6: **Stay** – water remains in the pond



Animal

- 1: **Soil** – water is excreted through feces and urine
- 2: **Soil** – water is excreted through feces and urine
- 3: **Clouds** – water is respired or evaporated from the body
- 4: **Clouds** – water is respired or evaporated from the body
- 5: **Clouds** – water is respired or evaporated from the body
- 6: **Stay** – water is incorporated into the body

Ground Water

- 1: **St. Lawrence River** – water filters into the St. Lawrence
- 2: **Lake Ontario** – water filters into the lake
- 3: **Lake Ontario** – water filters into the lake
- 4: **Stay** – water stays underground
- 5: **Stay** – water stays underground
- 6: **Stay** – water stays underground