

B1.1 The Earth's water cycle

Have you ever asked yourself where all the water that we use every day comes from and where it flows? Could it possibly run out at some point? No, it won't because the Earth's water moves in a cycle.

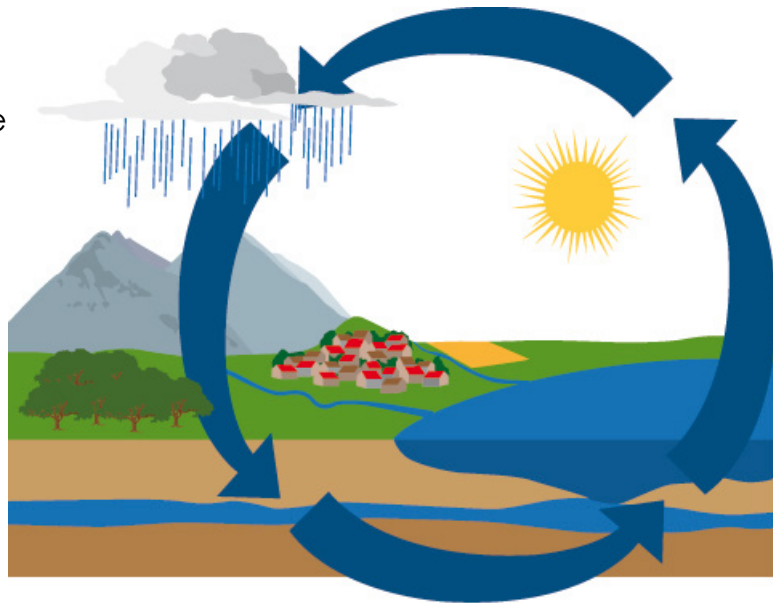


Figure 1: The Earth's water cycle.



Find out how the Earth's water cycle works.



**Write down your ideas and guesses.
Use the drawing as an aid.**

You need the following for the experiment:

- 1 small plant with roots
- 1 transparent plastic container
- about 50 cm of plastic wrap
- about 3 handfuls of soil
- stones or other small objects from nature
- water



Figure 2: Required materials.

**How to set up the experiment:**

Lay out all the materials as shown in the photo.

1. Fill the bottom of the transparent plastic container with soil.
2. Place the plant in the soil. If you want, you can also place stones or other small objects from nature in the container.
3. Water the plant a little bit. The soil must be well moistened.
4. Seal the container so that it is airtight.
Tip: Use the plastic wrap for this purpose. Make sure that you attach it securely.

**How to conduct the experiment:**

1. Place the container in a bright, warm location.
2. Observe it at school every day for a week and note down your observations.



Write down your observations:

What formed on the inside of the plastic wrap? What changes did you see in your water cycle?

Day 1 _____

Day 2 _____

Day 3 _____

Day 4 _____

Day 5 _____



Evaluate your observations:

1. What happened to the water?
2. Where does it come from?

**Doing further research:**

Experts call the sealed container with the plant and water a “biotope”.

1. Observe your biotope over an extended period.
2. What happens after two weeks? And after three weeks?
3. Note your observations.
4. What can you conclude from this?
5. Are there water cycles similar to your biotope in the environment?