

Learning about the WATER CYCLE

Background Information...

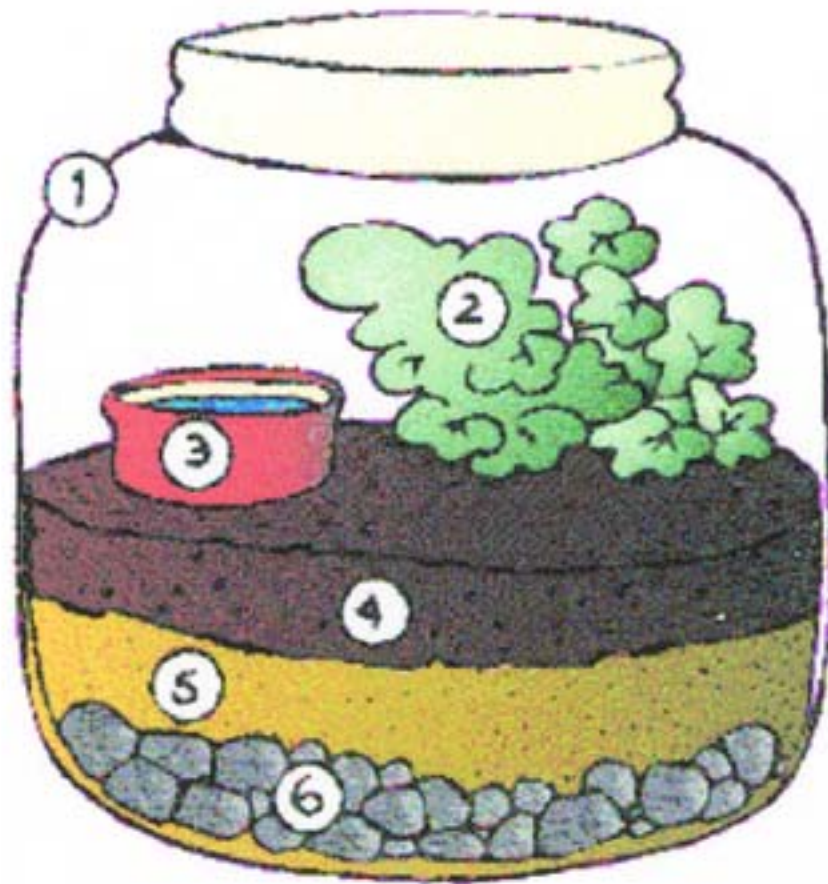
Water moves in a never-ending natural cycle. That means that the water you are using today may have been a drink for some dinosaur millions of years ago! The forms of water are always changing. They move from the sky to earth and back to the sky again. This is called the Water Cycle. Water falls to earth as rain or snow. Some of the water soaks into the ground and is stored as *groundwater*. The rest flows into streams, lakes, rivers, and oceans (*surface water*).

The sun warms the surface water and changes some of it into water vapor. This process is called *evaporation*. Plants give off water vapor, too, in a process called *transpiration*. The heated water vapor rises into the sky and forms clouds. When the vapor in the clouds *condenses*, it falls back to the earth as rain or snow. The Water Cycle has then come full circle and begins again.

Provided by the North Harris County Regional Water Authority.
Visit our websites: www.nhcrwa.com and www.stopthedrop.org,



Let's Build A Water Cycle!



Materials list:

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|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Large glass jar with a lid | 4. Potting soil (several cups) |
| 2. Small green plant that likes a moist environment | 5. Clean sand |
| 3. Plastic quart jar lid (3" diameter) | 6. Small rocks |

Instructions:

1. Fill the jar in the order shown above.
2. Add water to the jar lid and place firmly in the soil.
3. Put on the top jar lid.
4. Place the jar in a sunny place and watch your Water Cycle work!