

Water Cycle

Materials

- A round pan, such as a cookie tin
- A baby food jar or other small jar
- Plastic wrap
- A large rubber band or string
- A small stone or weight



Procedure

1. Place the empty baby food jar, without lid, into the center of the pan.
2. Fill the pan with about an inch of warm water.
3. Cover the pan and jar with plastic wrap, and secure in place with the rubber band or string.
4. Place the small stone or weight on top of the plastic wrap over the jar.
5. Leave the pan in a sunny, warm place for a few hours. Observe the changes that occur - check the wrap after a couple hours, and look inside the jar after your experiment is complete.

As the sun heats the water in the pan, the surface water starts to evaporate. Since the vapor is trapped, it condenses on the plastic wrap. The stone pushes down on the wrap and forms somewhat of a funnel to drip the condensed water into the jar.

In this scenario, the water in the pan acts like water in a lake. The water evaporates and goes up into the air and forms clouds (such as the “fog” inside the pan), condenses, and falls back to the earth (in this case into the jar).

