

WATER CYCLE CRAFT

Materials:

- Light blue, dark blue, white, yellow construction paper
- Cotton balls
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Hole puncher

Background:

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources is a department of the local government. The water department ensures that residents of Gwinnett County have clean water provided to their homes, as well as businesses, parks, and much more. Five water treatment factories spread throughout the county, work 24/7 to clean and send out water. All of Gwinnett County's drinking water comes from Lake Lanier. Seventy million gallons are taken from the lake each day, and in about two days it comes out of your faucet, shower, or hose. However, it doesn't end there. The water department also collects the water that goes down your drains in your sink, shower, and toilet. That used water goes back to wastewater treatment factories where it is cleaned again before being sent back to Lake Lanier. By using Lake Lanier as our reservoir and recycling used water, the Department of Water Resources helps conserve this natural resource and protect our environment, while providing quality, clean water to residents.

The water cycle is an important part of our everyday lives. We depend on precipitation to create bodies of water that can be used by all living things. Evaporation also helps in filtering water naturally.

What is the Water Cycle:

The Sun heats up water on Earth's surface, and that liquid water becomes water vapor (like steam). The water vapor rises into the sky, or atmosphere. This is called evaporation. Once the water vapor is in the atmosphere it cools back down, turns back into liquid water droplets and stick to each other as well as dust in the air. This forms clouds and is called condensation. When clouds gather enough water, they become heavy and release that water to fall back to Earth's surface. This is precipitation. Depending on the season and temperature, precipitation can fall as rain, hail, sleet, or snow. Once it falls to the ground, it will either fall into a body of water or onto the ground. Water that falls into bodies of water will flow to larger bodies and eventually reach the ocean. Water that falls on the ground either soaks deep into the ground and becomes groundwater, or becomes runoff and flows downhill into the nearest body of water, also known as collection.



Activity:

1. Cut five strips of light blue paper (fold paper "hamburger style" four times, and then cut)
2. Cut one large strip of dark blue paper
3. Cut one large strip of white paper
4. Draw a sun on yellow paper and cut out
5. Glue cotton balls onto white paper strip
6. Draw white water droplets on two light blue strips
7. Draw dark blue water droplets on three light blue strips
8. Draw waves on large dark blue strip
9. Use extra white strip to make labels: Evaporation, Condensation, Precipitation, Collection, Sun

