

# Sharing Water

Hanford Mills Museum Activity Guide  
*Recommended for Grades PreK-3*



## Where Does Water Come From?

Water is all around us! We can see water in lakes, rivers, and oceans. Water is in the ground too. Clouds are made of water, too, so it is even in the sky!



Image Courtesy of NASA

Look at the image above. Where is the water? Everywhere! It is in the sea, the ice, the clouds, and even invisible in the air.

## What is the Water Cycle?

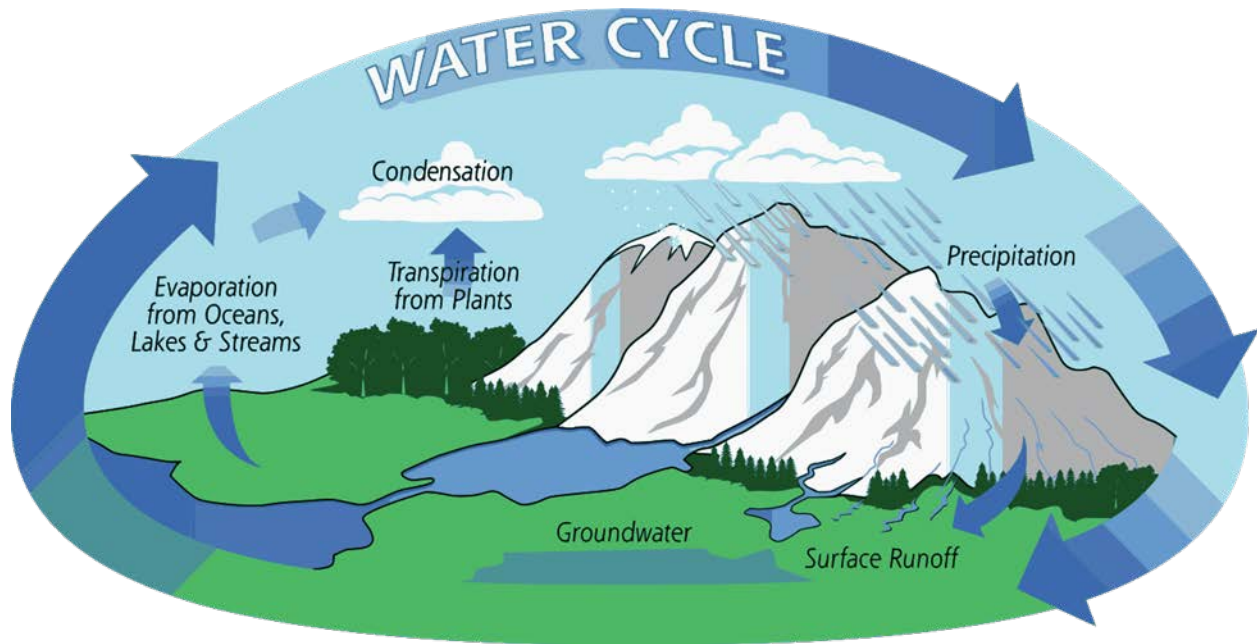


Image courtesy of Wikipedia

The **water cycle** is how water moves around the earth. There are four main parts of the cycle that happen again and again:

1. Water is stored in ground, lakes, or oceans (**collection**).
2. Water makes its way into the sky through **evaporation**.
3. Water cools off in the sky and becomes clouds (**condensation**).
4. Water comes back to the ground as rain or snow (**precipitation**).

## How Do We Share Water?



Image Courtesy of the State of California

People share water in all sorts of ways, even if we do not realize it. Because of the water cycle, water is always moving around. When you drink water from the water fountain at school, you are using part of the water everyone uses. When you wash your hands at home, you are using water that will someday be used by another person!

## **Activity: How much water do we have?**

We have lots of water in the world, but just how much is safe to drink? Let's find out together!

### **Supplies:**

- Eye dropper or straw (If you don't have either, you can just pour a small amount of water from the glass in step 4)
- 1 full cup of water
- 2 empty cups
- A bottle cap or other small container

### **Instructions:**

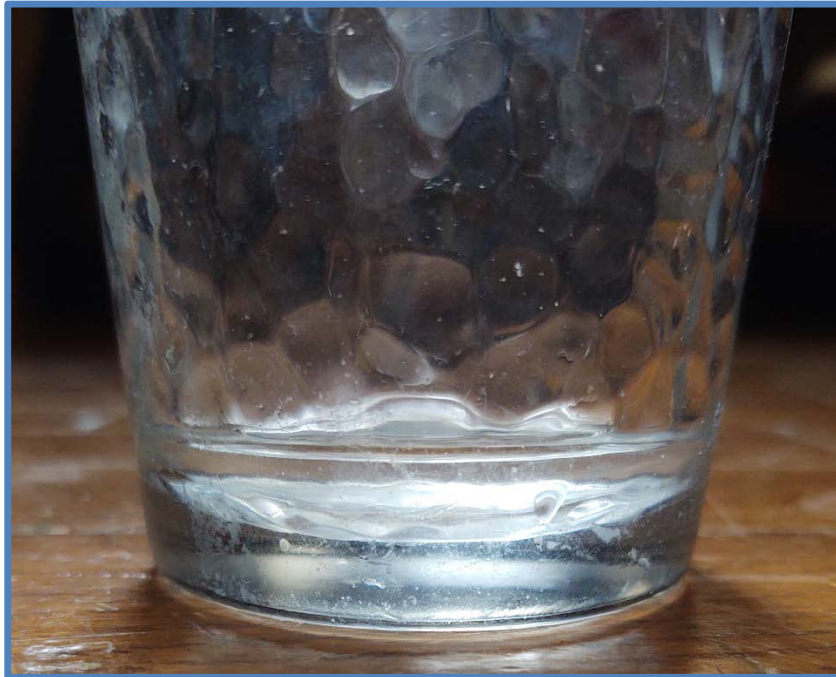
1. Start with a full cup of water.



**2.** The glass full of water represents all of the water in the world. From the full glass, add just a little bit of water to the second glass, enough to fill about one inch. The water in the second glass is all of the fresh water in the world. The rest of the water is salt water, and we can't drink salt water.



3. From the second glass, add just a little bit of that water to the third glass, enough to fill about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The second glass is all of the ice in the world and the third glass is all of the liquid fresh water. Most of the world's fresh water is frozen!



4. From the third glass, use your straw or dropper to add just one drop of water to the bottle cap or small container. That one drop represents all of the fresh water that people can get to easily. The water in the third glass is mostly underground water.



If one full glass of water is all of the water in the world, it is just that one drop that we rely on. That is why it is so important to share our water!

