

Unit Name/Theme: Rain/Weather

What are we doing? Children will simulate rain, observe the water and gain a greater understanding of the properties of clouds and rain.

Purpose/Why? Children will gain a greater understanding of rain by making rain themselves, by hypothesizing and testing their ideas, and build knowledge upon their natural curiosity of the weather.

Materials:

Provided:

- Plastic Mason jar
- Eye Dropper
- Pie tin

You will need to provide:

- Rubber band (large enough to fit around jar)
- Water
- Blue food coloring
- Thick paper towels
- Glass jar
- Tray to set jar on
- Ice cubes
- Very hot/boiling water

Books:

“Little Bird Takes a Bath” by Marisabina Russo

“Raindrops Roll” by April Pulley Sayre

“Split! Splat!” by Amy Gibson; illustrated by Steve Bjorkman

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Quick Start

Fill the plastic Mason jar or other container with water and add blue food coloring to make a dark blue. Pour some of the blue water into another small container. Fold a heavy duty paper towel in half and secure it to the top of the Mason jar with the rubber band. Set the jar, blue water, and eye dropper on a tray.

Fill the eye dropper with blue water from the small container and **slowly** drop onto the paper towel. Observe what the blue water does. Continue to add drops of blue water until the paper towel is soaked and the blue water begins to drip into the jar.

This activity helps demonstrate how a cloud holds the water until it finally releases it in the form of rain onto the ground.



Ask a Question

- What do you think is going to happen?
- What is rain?
- What does the sky look like when it rains?
- Why does it rain?

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Deeper Dive

Make your own rain!

This is an experiment should be under **direct** adult supervision.

Children: Place/pour ice cubes into the pie plate

Teacher: Place boiling water in a glass jar and set the jar where children can easily see it.

Instruct children that they are to watch and not touch!

Place the pie tin with the ice cubes on top of the Mason jar.

It won't take long before you start seeing water droplets on the bottom of the pie plate and maybe on the sides of the jar. When the warm water vapor cools, it collects into droplets.

It rains when warm water vapor (in the air) cools to form water droplets.



Vocabulary Builder

- Thunder
- Lightening
- Drizzle
- Shower
- Sprinkle
- Mist
- Dew
- Frost
- Precipitation
- Slow
- Fast
- Light
- Heavy