

Alice in Waterland

Reading – Grade 1-3



Children are introduced to the water cycle.

Materials:

- Reading material included in this lesson
- Space for the students to spread out

Instructions:

1. After reviewing the water cycle and looking at simple diagrams, let the children imagine they are part of the water cycle.
2. First, have them find their own space. Next, have them pretend they are floating clouds getting fatter and darker as they fill with moisture. When the cloud is too full, they become raindrops falling to the earth. Some fall on the ground and sink into the ground to feed the plants. Some fall into streams or lakes to help people and animals. The streams flow into rivers and then flow into the ocean. The sun shines on the ocean (hold up a “sun”) and pulls the raindrops back into the clouds.
3. After the children have “experienced” the cycle, lead a review of the terminology: precipitation, absorption, evaporation, etc.
4. When you feel the children understand the cycle, take them through the following guided imagery using background music. Before beginning, have children get comfortable and close their eyes. After every question, pause to allow children to think about the question but not answer aloud.

Begin reading: “Water is everywhere around us. It is in our oceans, in our ground. You can see it coming out of faucets in your house or in a pool. It is in lakes, rivers and streams. It falls from the sky and is on the roads, ponds, and puddles. Imagine that you are standing next to water. Look around, what do you see? What do you hear? What do you smell? Still using your imagination, bend down and touch the water. What do you feel? Is it cold or warm? What color is it? Can you see animals or bugs swimming in it? Now think, where did this water come from? How did it get here?”

5. Have children open their eyes. Ask them to share where they were. After children have shared, ask them to think about how the water got where they were. Tell them that no matter where they were the water got to them in a cycle of events. Review the water cycle with them.

** Lesson Enhancement: Take the children back to the guided imagery. Reread the selection beginning “look around you,” and add the following to the end: “Imagine that you are rain or melting snow. Can you see the ground getting muddy? Are the rivers and lakes filling with water? Think about the plants and animals. What will the rain do for them? Now the sun is coming out. Where will the water go?” Tell children to slowly open their eyes and get ready to share.