Let's Make it Rain

In this lesson, children will conduct a quick experiment on precipitation.

BACKGROUND:

Precipitation is the process by which water changes from a gas to a liquid. Tiny water droplets condenses when it collides with even tinier dust, salt, or smoke particles. The collisions create droplets that become heavier that the gaseous cloud and begin to fall due to gravity and will fall out of the cloud as precipitation (rain, snow, sleet and hail).

MATERIALS:

- Mason jar
- Cup
- Cotton balls
- Water
- Blue food coloring optional
- Small strainer
- Water dropper or spoon

PROCEDURE:

- Add food coloring to water in cup
- Place metal strainer on top of mason jar
- Place cotton balls (cotton balls represent clouds) in the metal strainer
- Using a water droplet or spoon scoop up the blue water and squeeze or pour out water dropper or spoon slowly drip water over the cotton balls
- When the cotton balls become saturated and heavy they will release blue water droplets into the mason jar to model rain

CONCLUSION:

Extend this activity by having the students draw the observations made during this experiment.Research different types of cloud formations and which lead to precipitation.

San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District
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