

Topic based resource

Water

Foundation Phase

Eco-Schools



Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

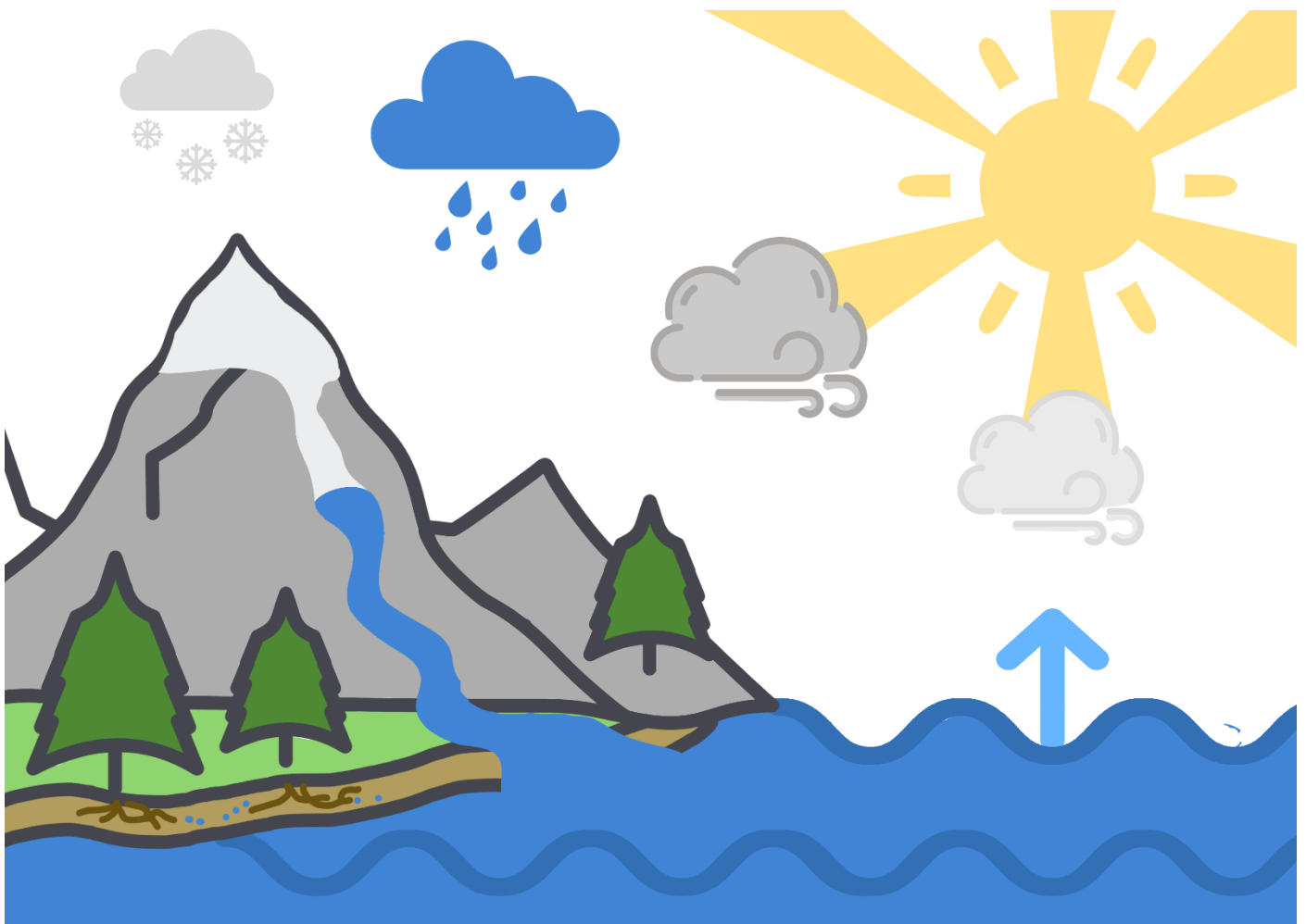
14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



cadwch keep
gymru'n wales
daclus tidy

Background information

Water is one of the most important natural resources on Earth and we have to learn to protect it. It is important to understand how water goes in a cycle and even after we have used it, the water continues its journey around the circle. In this activity the children will learn about how we can measure the water which falls from the sky as rain. They will also learn about capacity by experimenting with collecting rain in different shaped containers.



Climate perspective

Although water flows in a cycle there is a delicate balance, and it is important that humans do not misuse water as this can upset the cycle. By using too much water from one area it can cause drought in that area. When water flows through our sewer systems it takes energy to convert it back into clean water so that it can be reintroduced to the cycle. We know that overuse

of energy is one of the main causes of climate change which in turn is having an effect on the water cycle by raising the sea level and is one of the factors in causing extreme weather events including flooding. It is important that children understand the water cycle and their role in conserving water.

Catch the Rain

Foundation Phase

This activity brings together science and maths as the children consider capacity and practise measuring whilst learning about the water cycle.

Materials needed:

- Containers or assorted shapes and sizes from the recycling.
- A rainy day (or a hose pipe).
- A measuring cylinder/jug



Step 1

Talk to the children about the importance of measuring how much rain falls in different areas and at different times of the year to understand our climate better.

Show the children the different containers and without giving any clues ask the children to think about which will collect the most rainwater.

Step 2

Ask each group to choose a container. Ask them to put their container somewhere in your area. If there is a place where there are already drips e.g. the edge of a building avoid this space to make the test fairer. Ask the children to explain why they chose that space. If two groups decide to put theirs together this is fine as it encourages discussion later as to why they have collected different amounts of water.

Step 3



Leave the containers out as long as possible. This could be all day if the rain is light or showery and the containers are unlikely to be disturbed by others, or just an hour may be long enough if the rain is heavy.

Step 4

Take the measuring cylinder and go round to each group in turn measuring how much water they have collected and recording the information.

Discuss the results thinking about the different containers and why different ones collected more.

Curriculum Links

Area of Learning and Experience - Humanities

Statement of What Matters:

Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.

Area of Learning and Experience - Science and Technology

Statement of What Matters:

The world around us is full of living things which depend on each other for survival.

Area of Learning and Experience - Mathematics and Numeracy

Statement of What Matters:

Geometry focuses on relationships involving shape, space and position, and measurement focuses on quantifying phenomena in the physical world.

Next steps and other ideas

- Use a rainwater measurer to monitor rainfall over a period of time and record the results. These can then be used to make charts and graphs.
- More information and activities can be found here
<https://corporate.dwrcymru.com/en/community/education/teaching-resources/primary-resources>



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