

WATER CYCLE BRACELET



Grade Level: 4-12 Science

Objective: Students will be able to identify the parts of the water cycle and their importance.

Introduction: This activity uses 10 beads that represent the water cycle, or the hydrologic cycle. The beads are used to show the paths water takes through its various states – solid, liquid and vapor, as it moves throughout Earth’s systems – oceans, atmosphere, ground water, rain, streams, etc.

Directions:

Read the book Water Dance by Thomas Locker. This has a great explanation of the water cycle. Give each student a piece of yarn, leather, or rope.

Show the students that each colored bead represents a different stage of water in the Earth’s systems.

Ask the students to string one of each colored bead on their bracelet. Tell them to string the beads in any order they like.

After the bracelets are complete, ask the students to show you their personal water cycle. For example, if their beads are in the following order: clouds, puddles, plants, etc., the students explain that the water started in the clouds, then it rained and fell into puddles on the sidewalk, then the water evaporated and collected on the plants overnight. Each student will have a different water story to tell.

The beads and what they represent are as follows:

Sun (yellow) – the sun is the source of all energy on earth and powers the water cycle.

Water Vapor (clear) – the part of the water cycle where water is suspended in the air or is steam and humidity.

Clouds (gray) – when water vapor condenses but is still in the air.

Rain (sparkling clear) – moisture from clouds falls to the earth as a liquid.

Snow (white) – moisture falling as a liquid in the frozen state.

Erosion (brown) – rain causes erosion where soil is unprotected by vegetation. Soil particles are suspended in the water run off.

Oceans (dark blue) – the Earth’s weather factory. Moisture evaporates from the oceans by the sun’s heat and is carried around the Earth by winds.

Lakes (sparkling blue) – the way we like to see a lake. Collects water from streams, and also evaporates water into the atmosphere.

Puddles (sparkling brown) – rain water collects in low spots, streets, sidewalks, and also collects pollutants (dirt, trash, automotive fluids, etc.) Puddles evaporate or go into storm sewers.

Plants (green) – Plants take in water through roots and evaporate water into the atmosphere through leaves – a process called transpiration.