

Water Cycle Bracelets

Subject: Science

Grade Level: K-12

Water Cycle Bracelets are a fun activity that uses pony beads to create a bracelet representing the water cycle (hydrologic cycle). All living things depend on water for survival. The water found on Earth is the same water that has always been on the planet. We cannot make new water. It is a nonrenewable natural resource. The water on Earth is constantly moving, and this movement of water is known as the water cycle.

Materials (per student)

12" – 14" piece of leather cording or substitute a chenille stem for younger students

1 small yellow pony bead = sun

1 small clear pony bead = water vapor

1 small gray pony bead = clouds

1 small sparkling clear pony bead = rain

1 small white pony bead = snow

1 small brown pony bead = erosion

1 small dark blue pony bead = oceans

1 small sparkling blue pony bead = lakes

1 small sparkling brown pony bead = puddles

1 small green pony bead = plants

1 small light blue pony bead = ground water

Procedure

1. Explain to the students that each colored bead represents the various stages of the water in the Earth's systems.
 - Sun (Yellow) – the sun is the source of all energy and powers the water cycle.
 - Water Vapor (Clear) – the part of the water cycle where water is suspended in the air.
 - Clouds (Gray) – condensed water vapor still in the air.
 - Rain (Sparkling Clear) – moisture from clouds falls to Earth as a liquid (precipitation).
 - Snow (White) - moisture falling as a liquid in its frozen state (precipitation).
 - Erosion (Brown) – rain causes erosion where soil particles are suspended in the water runoff.
 - Oceans (Dark Blue) – moisture evaporates from the oceans by the sun's heat and is carried around by the Earth's winds.
 - Lakes (Sparkling Blue) – collects water from streams and where water also evaporates into the atmosphere.

- Puddles (Sparkling Brown) – rainwater collects in low spots, streets, sidewalks and collects pollutants. Puddles evaporate or run off.
 - Plants (Green) – take in water through roots and evaporate water into the atmosphere through leaves (transpiration)
 - Groundwater (Light Blue) – water that collects below the surface.
2. Tie a knot at one end of the cording.
 3. Have the students string one of each colored beads on their bracelets. They may string them on in any order they wish.

Explorations and Extensions

- Add English Language Arts to the lesson by having them write a story or poem about the water cycle on their bracelet.
- What makes water move through the cycle? (sun, gravity, physical properties of water)
- What would happen if the sun’s energy were blocked from Earth?
- How is the water cycle important to plants and animals?

Louisiana Student Standards

This is a supplemental activity to be integrated with the following state standards.

K-ESS3-1	6-MS-ESS3-4
2-ESS2-3	7-MS-ESS2-4
4-ESS3-1	8-MS-ESS2-2
5-ESS2-1	8-MS-ESS3-3
5-ESS2-2	HS-ESS2-5
	HS-ESS3-1