



Science Lessons by Ms. W



Weather

How Does It Rain? Letter People TM 49

Push a coffee filter into the mouth of a jar, and use a rubber band to attach the edge of the filter to the edge of the jar. The center of the filter should be visible through the jar. The filter is the "cloud". As children observe, drip water onto the filter (all count as you go). Stop when it starts to "rain" inside the jar.

Explain that rain falls when clouds can't hold any more water.

Make a Cloud Fill a clear jar with hot water. Pour out half of it and cover the jar with plastic wrap. Place a few ice cubes on the plastic wrap. Water vapor will condense where the warm air and the cold air meet causing a cloud to form on the sides of the jar.

See A Rainbow Letter People TM 51

Experiment in the classroom with placing prisms in sunlight to create rainbows on the wall in the classroom. Name the colors. Explain: At the end of a storm, the sun will shine on the last drops, separating their colors.

Make Your Own Rainbow: Put some water in a baking pan. Set the pan in sunlight coming through a window. Now lean a small hand mirror against the inside of the pan. You will see a rainbow on the wall or ceiling. Look at all the colors in your rainbow. All these colors are in the sunlight. When they are mixed together, they look white. But when the sunlight shines through the water, the colors are separated.

Wind

Make the Wind Blow Letter People Tm 53

The wind can move things by blowing. Make a "wind tray". Experiment which items can be blown and which items cannot. Why? (heavy/light) A variation would be to let the students use straws or empty spray bottles to see which item can be blown.

Wind Painting Put a piece of construction paper in an aluminum tin. Spoon paint onto the paper. Have the children blow through straws and feel their own wind. Have them use their own wind to move the paint by blowing through the straws. Beautiful creations!

Water

Water Discussion

How do we use water? Discuss. We use water to drink, wash and play, etc.

States of Matter

Discuss and experiment: **Water is the only substance on earth found as a liquid, solid and gas.** Experiment with different forms of water. Produce several ice cubes. Discuss and observe. Put them in a clear cup. Continue observation through out the day as they melt. Mark the water level. Observe and discuss as the days go by...evaporation. Where did it go? Review the states of matter and the water cycle.

Experiment with mixtures.

Make Salt Water: Add a spoonful of salt to a glass of water. Can you see the salt in the water? Now stir. Can you still see the salt? What happened to it? The salt is still there, but it is in such tiny pieces you can't see it. The salt dissolved in the water. What else dissolves in water?

What Will Dissolve in Water?

Use muffin tins or small bowls. Put four to six different materials (salt, cornstarch, flour, cornmeal, instant coffee, bouillon crystals, etc) into the tins. Ask the children to predict which

materials will dissolve in water and which will not. Experiment to test their predictions.

Floating and Sinking

Make a collection of heavy and light items from around the classroom. Guess which ones will sink and which ones will float. Fill a clear tub or water table with water. Try your predictions. Discuss. Why do things sink or float?