

WILD WEATHER SCIENCE LAB

What makes the weather happen? Step into our weather lab to find out how weather works...

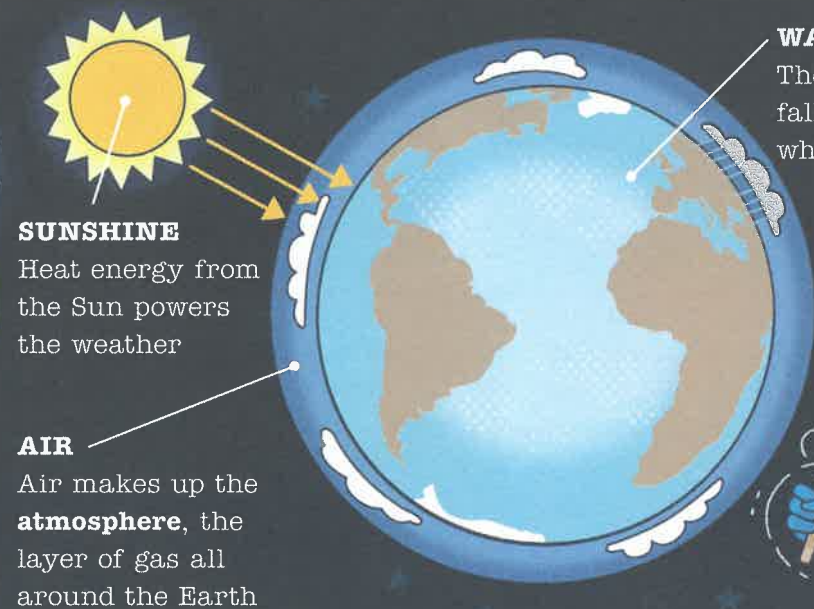


By Anna Claybourne

Don't forget your raincoat!

What makes the weather?

Although weather can do many different things, it has just three main ingredients:



SUNSHINE
Heat energy from the Sun powers the weather

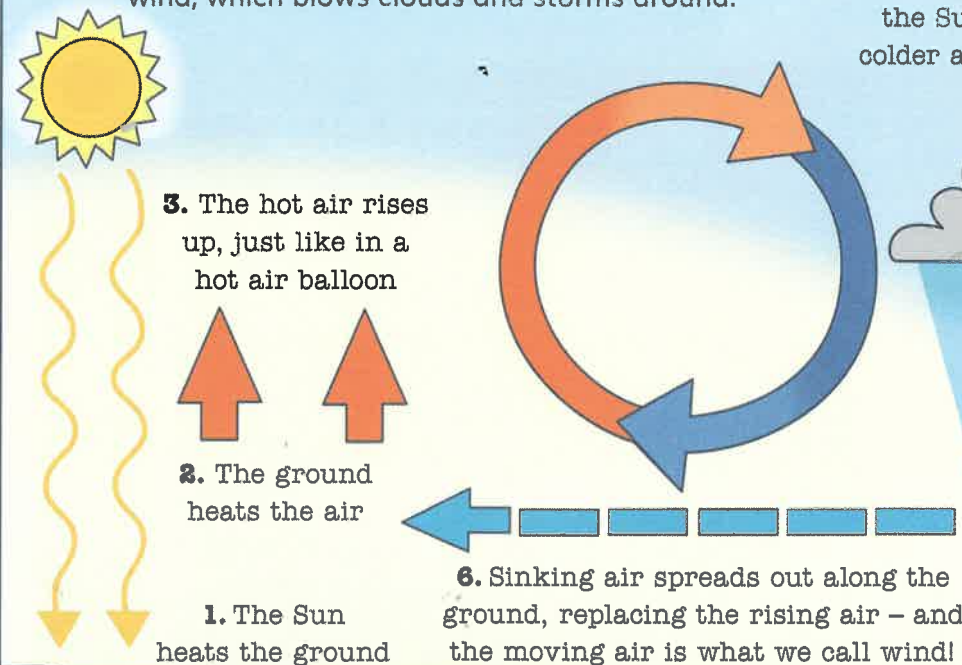
AIR
Air makes up the **atmosphere**, the layer of gas all around the Earth

WATER
The ingredient that falls on your head when it rains!

Mix them together, and you've got weather!

Moving air

Why is the weather always changing? It's because the Sun's heat makes the atmosphere move. This makes wind, which blows clouds and storms around.



4. Where clouds block the Sun, the land is colder and so is the air

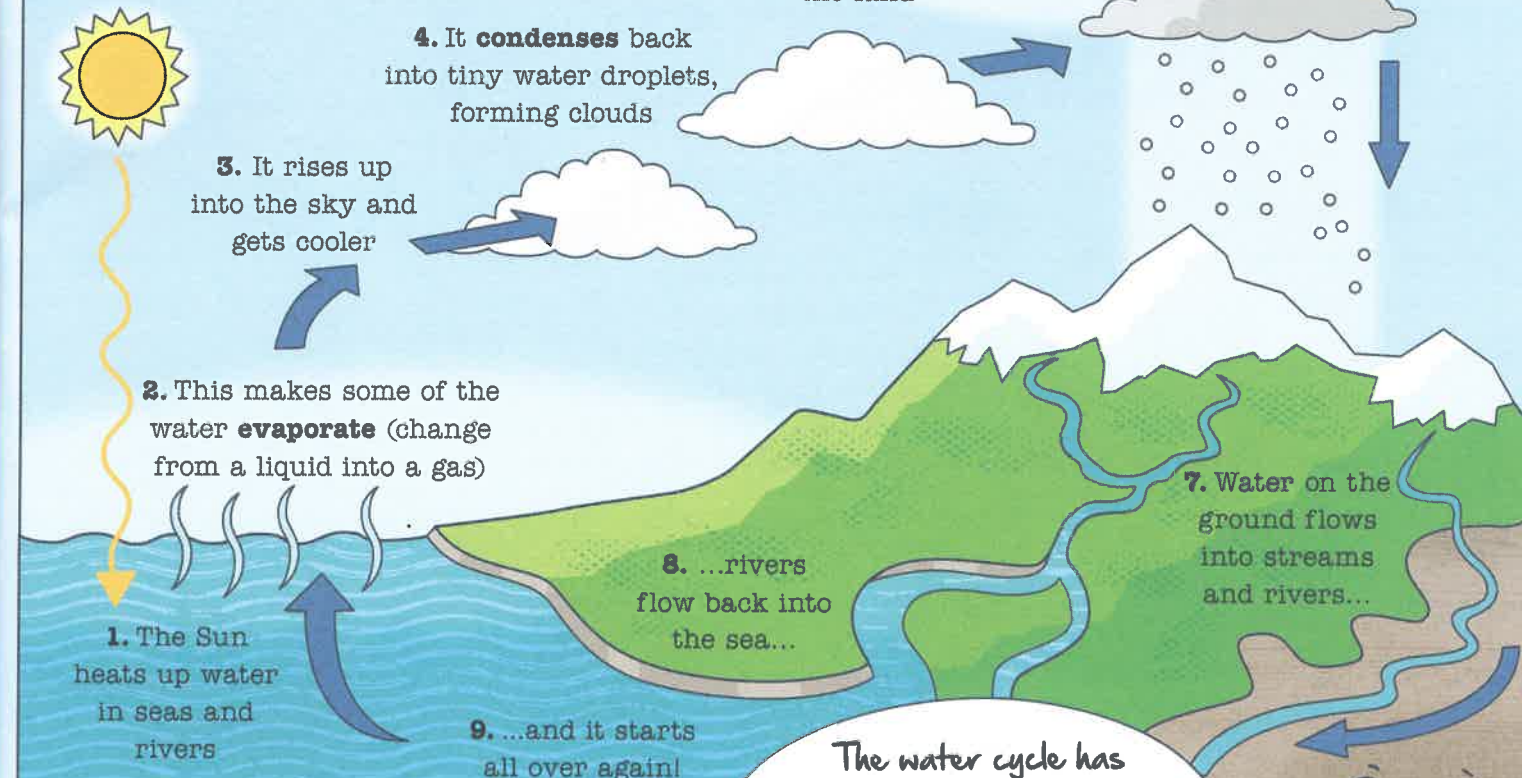
What's the wind's favourite colour?
Blew!

5. The cold air sinks down

6. Sinking air spreads out along the ground, replacing the rising air - and the moving air is what we call wind!

The water cycle

As the air moves around, it carries water with it - also thanks to the Sun! So, water is always moving around too. We call this the **water cycle**.



The water cycle has been happening for billions of years! The water you drink could have once been drunk by a dinosaur!



Water cycle in a jar

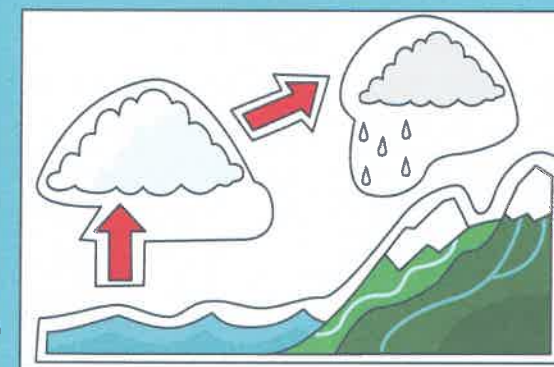
Make your own miniature water cycle in a jar!

You will need:

- A clean jam jar
- Warm water
- Ice
- Pens, paper and glue (optional)
- Blue food colouring (optional)

What you do:

1. If you like, you can draw and cut out the parts of the water cycle and glue them to the jar, as in the picture.
2. Put some warm tap water in the bottom of the jar (mixing in some blue food colouring if you like) and put the lid on top, upside down.
3. The warm water will start to evaporate and form a mini cloud.
4. Now put some ice cubes on the upside-down lid. They'll make the cloud extra cold, and it will start to condense and form water drops. Eventually, they'll fall back down as rain!



TRUE? ☐
All the world's water would fit inside the Moon
UNTRUE? ☐

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