

Water Cycle Investigation

Investigation Question: How does water move through the water cycle? Can we use a model to think about how water moves through a place like Moro Canyon?

Equipment

- (1) large bowl
- (1) small cup
- (1) sheet of plastic wrap
- (1) rubber band (optional)
- hot water (optional)
- ice (optional)

Procedure

1. Get a large bowl and fill the bowl halfway with water. If you can access hot water, this may speed up the experiment, but if you do not, lukewarm water works fine.
2. Place a small cup or mug in the middle of your large bowl. Make sure that the water in the large bowl does not pour over the mug.
3. Using a sheet of plastic wrap, cover your large container. This will effectively act as a barrier to seal off the system that you are creating and trap the water within your model. The model should look similar to the picture on the right.



Optional: If you are able, you can use a rubber band or tape to secure the plastic wrap more tightly around the bowl!

4. If you can, place a piece of ice or some sort of weight on top of the plastic wrap directly above your mug. (This will help speed up the process, but is not necessary for it to work!)
5. Open the Science Notebook page. Under the *Draw and Explain* section, sketch how your model looks now, including both a top-down and a side view. Make sure to show where the water is starting.
6. Leave the containers in a sunny place or under a bright light for 1-2 hours.

7. After enough time has passed, return to observe what has happened inside your Water Cycle model!
8. On the Science Notebook page, sketch how your model looks after 1-2 hours, including both a top-down and a side view. Make sure to where the water ended up at the end of your investigation!
9. When you are done sketching the model, continue on to the *Reflection* section of the Science Notebook page and respond to the questions there.