



ACTIVITY #1: WONDERING ABOUT WATER

This lesson involves a short class discussion in which students share observations about the physical properties of water, consider what they already know about water, and begin to place this in the context of science concepts.

Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Education Academic Standards section for the ADE standards addressed by this lesson.

Instructions: In advance, collect several hands-on objects to enhance class discussion (cups of water, cups of ice, cups of soil, rocks, and pieces of wood; also if available pictures of water in the environment as rain, snow, rivers, lakes, etc.). Use these items and the following to guide a short discussion about water:

Is water important to us?

- 💧 Yes, it's very important! Like all living things, we must have water to live!

What can we observe about water with our five senses?

- 💧 Eyes / sight?
- 💧 Ears / sound?
- 💧 Nose / smell?
- 💧 Mouth / taste?
- 💧 Touch?

What else do we know about water?

- 💧 **Welcome a variety of observations.**
- 💧 It can be a solid, liquid, or gas.
- 💧 It is a material that comes from the earth.

How is water alike or different than other objects or materials (like soil, rocks, wood, air, etc.)?

- 💧 **Welcome a variety of observations.**
- 💧 Nothing else occurs as solid, liquid, and gas within the range of temperatures commonly found on Earth.

Where in our natural environment can we find water?

- 💧 In washes, streams, rivers, puddles, lakes, etc. – This is called **surface water**.
- 💧 Underground between rocks, sand, and clay – This is **groundwater** and the layers of rock, sand, and clay that hold it are called an **aquifer**.
- 💧 Falling from the sky as rain or snow – This is **precipitation**.
- 💧 Flowing down the street, in washes, etc. after rain – We call this **runoff**.
- 💧 In the atmosphere as water vapor, after **evaporation** from a liquid to a gas form.

All this water is part of the **water cycle**. The water cycle includes all the places we find water and all the ways water moves around in the environment. We'll explore this more in our next activity!