

S U M M A R I E S

INVESTIGATION 1: Exploring Evaporation and Condensation

In Investigation One, you explored the evaporation and condensation phases of the water cycle. During this Investigation, you:

1. created three models that showed the atmosphere and water on Earth. Mirrors were the atmosphere. Beakers of water were the water.
2. observed whether or not water drops appeared on the mirrors or on the sides of the beakers.

Through these experiments, you found that:

1. evaporation occurred as water changed to water vapor
2. condensation occurred as the water vapor cooled to form water drops.
3. condensation occurred when the atmosphere was colder than the water on Earth.

INVESTIGATION 2: Exploring Condensation and Precipitation

In Investigation Two, you explored the condensation and precipitation phases of the water cycle. During this Investigation, you:

1. created a model that showed the condensation and precipitation phases of the water cycle. A sponge was the atmosphere.
2. added water to a sponge and observed the results.

Through these experiments, you found that:

1. water drops combine in the atmosphere to form clouds.
2. when the water drops in clouds (sponge) become too heavy they fall to the Earth as precipitation.

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INVESTIGATION 3: Exploring Precipitation and Collection

In Investigation Three, you explored the precipitation and collection phases of the water cycle. During this Investigation, you:

1. created two models. One model showed the collection of groundwater. The other model showed the collection of surface water.
2. added water to both models and observed the results.

Through these experiments, you found that:

1. water collects on the surface of some soils. This water is called surface water. Lakes, rivers, and streams are surface water.
2. some water collects in the ground. This is water called groundwater.

INVESTIGATION 4: Exploring Pollution of the Water Cycle

In Investigation Four, you explored how pollutants can enter the water cycle. During this Investigation, you:

1. created a model that represented a lake and its shore.
2. added pollutants to the ground and observed the results.
3. added acid rain to the Earth and observed the results.

Through these experiments, you found that:

1. pollutants added to the ground can move through the ground and into the lake.
2. acid rain can move into the ground and can fall into a lake.
3. pollution doesn't stay where it is first placed. It can move to other places.

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INVESTIGATION 5: Exploring the Effects of Water Pollution

In Investigation Five, you explored how pollutants in the water cycle can affect living and non-living things. During this Investigation, you:

1. added chalk to water or vinegar to see if acid rain affects non-living things.
2. created a groundwater model to see if pollution affects living things.
3. observed a model of surface water to see if acid rain affects living things.

Through these experiments, you found that:

1. acid rain wears away non-living things, such as buildings, statues, and mountains.
2. acid rain (pollutants) in the groundwater and the surface water affects living things.