

YOUR MISSION, RANGER:

THE PUDDLE DETECTIVE

Lesson 5 · Catch the water cycle in action — in your own back garden.

GEAR YOU NEED

- A shallow dish or bowl
- Water + a sunny window sill
- Chalk or marker
- A clear jar with a lid (for bonus)

HOW TO COMPLETE THE MISSION

- 1 Fill a shallow dish with 2cm of water.
- 2 Mark the water level with a line on the outside of the dish.
- 3 Place it in direct sunlight for 3 hours.
- 4 Come back and mark the NEW water level.
- 5 Where did the water go? (Hint: up into the sky!)
- 6 Draw the water cycle arrow from dish → sky in your field notes.

RANGER TIP

That disappearing water is called **EVAPORATION** — the first step of the water cycle. The sun is an invisible pump lifting water up into the atmosphere every single day.

BONUS CHALLENGE

Put a lid on a jar with a little water inside. Leave it in the sun. Watch water droplets form on the lid — that's **CONDENSATION**. You just made clouds in a jar!

FIELD NOTES / SKETCH

SCOUT SAYS:



Every drop of water on Earth is millions of years old and has been on this cycle before. The water you drink today may have been drunk by a dinosaur. Think about that!

RANGER STAMP

DATE COMPLETED

