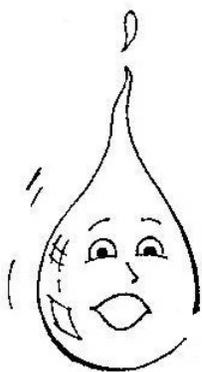


ACTIVITY ONE: WHERE DOES RAIN COMES FROM?

This listening and writing LANGUAGES activity looks at the water cycle. It follows the adventures of Drip the Drop who starts his journey in the sea, goes on an amazing adventure, and eventually returns back to the ocean, only to start his adventure again!

READ THE FOLLOWING STORY TO YOUR CLASS:



From Sea to Sky

Far out at sea, Drip the Waterdrop floated with his friends. Drip rolled over slowly in the sunlit ocean. The warmer he got, the harder it was for him to stay still. "I feel jumpy", he said.

Suddenly he was gone! Drip's friends vanished too, they burst from the water's surface and disappeared. They had **evaporated**. (*Do the children know what you mean when you say 'evaporated'? Have any of them walked or driven through mist? It's like walking through floating teeny tiny raindrops – that is what has happened to Drip*). Drip was now a misty, invisible vapour (teeny tiny, "too small to see", water droplet) floating up to the sky. "I'm finally rid of that itchy salt" he said. "Who wants to be seawater anyway?"

No one answered Drip. His friends were rising too quickly. Winds carried Drip and his friends over the huge ocean towards the land. As he floated through the air, Drip gasped "What a view! But we are so high up in the sky! Those birds way down there look like tiny dots".

As Drip floated over the land, more drops evaporated and joined him. "Hey, where did all of you come from?" Drip shouted. "I came from the salty sea". "We came from the damp forests, lakes and rivers down below", they all shouted back.

From Cloud to Rain

Soon the air got cooler and the droplets crowded closer together. They gathered so close that they formed a thick cloud. "Boy, it's getting dark in here!" whispered Drip, a bit afraid. The air got even cooler. "I feel wet", Drip murmured. He and his friends were **condensing**, or changing from mist into raindrops.

Kaboom! With a flash and a crash, lightning ripped through the clouds. The raindrops began falling. "Umpff" groaned Drip as he splashed onto a rock and rolled onto the ground. "Now where are we going?" he asked some friends who had splashed down next to him. Nobody answered him because nobody knew.

From Stream to River

The water drops joined together and sped along as part of a tiny stream. They played games as the stream flowed through the grasses and rocks. "I've got you!! You're on!" Drip shouted as he caught another drop. Instead of being *on*, though, the drop disappeared!! "Wait!" yelled Drip. "That's not fair. Where did you go?"

But the drop *couldn't* answer. It had soaked into the ground and was on its way to join millions of other drops in an underground lake. A short time later, Drip's tiny stream joined another tiny stream to form a bigger one. This stream joined others until they all grew so big that they became one great, wide river.

The force of the flowing water amazed Drip. He and his friend held fast to each other as they bounced off the rocks, whipped around the bends, and splashed all over the place.

A Dirty Journey

After a long while, the river began to slow down. Drip drifted along, silent for once. Until "Oomph! What was that?" Drip cried as a floating object bumped into him. Looking about, he spied crushed cartons, bobbing cans and cups, and globs of tar all around him. "How did I get into this disgusting mess?" he wondered.

Drip edged away trying to find a cleaner place. Then all at once, everything went dark. "Oh no", he moaned. Gushing from some pipes on the river's edge was dirty water from a nearby town. And running into the river from the farms was a flood of mud! Drip and his friends moved blindly through this mess.

"If waterdrops had to breathe, we'd choke to death on all this rubbish and dirty water", he complained to his friends. "Why do people allow this to happen? Don't they care?"

As the river widened, more water flowed with Drip and his friends. More drops helped carry the dirty load downstream. Drip just missed being swallowed by an open bottle that was slowly sinking. In making his escape, he ran right into a large clump of water grass. Further along, more grass, reeds and other water plants spread out in a huge wetland. All the drops had to drift through it. When they got to the end of the wetland, they were much cleaner!

"Where did that disgusting junk go?" Drip asked. Then he realised that the leaves, stems and roots of the plants had trapped much of the rubbish, dirt and chemicals.

Back at Sea

Drip and his friends passed out of the wetland and into a large bay. Just as he looked to the horizon, he noticed a funny taste. It seemed familiar. Then he remembered and understood. "Well! What do you know! We're back where we started", Drip exclaimed as he and his friends rode the top of the big wave. "So, where do you think the sun and the wind will send us next time?" No one knew but wherever they were sent the next time round, it was sure to be a great adventure again!!

Writing Activities:

1. After reading the 'water cycle' story to your learners, get the children, either individually or in groups to discuss and write down an appropriate title for the story they have just heard. Each child then needs to share his or her title or group's title with the rest of the class.
2. Each child can now write a few lines on their own personal experience within the water cycle. They may like to write about what it felt like to be caught in the rain, or when they went swimming in a river/dam, or an outing to the beach/sea.
3. For homework or in class, let the children colour in the water cycle worksheet provided on the next page.

Criteria to assess learners during this languages lesson

Criteria	Exceeded requirements of the Learning Outcome	Satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Partially satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Not satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome
The learner listened to the story, without being distracted or distracting				
The learner was able to share ideas in the group or with the teacher about a possible title for the 'Drip the Drop' story				
The learner was able to write a simple, short story about a personal experience				
The learner formed the letters of his/her story clearly and easily				
The learner used basic punctuation (capital letters and full stops)				

