Second Grade Families,

Your child is about to embark on a terrific, scientific journey discovering the connections of Earth’s many cycles.

This is a glimpse into what we will be doing for the next 6 weeks. The learning experiences are driven by the students. We are excited to guide your students through this process and we cannot wait to see what they discover.

-Second Grade Teachers

Transdisciplinary Theme

How The World Works:

Inquiry into the natural world and its laws, the interaction between the natural world (physical and biological) and human societies; how humans use their understanding of scientific principles; the impact of scientific and technological advances on society and on the environment.

Central Idea

Earth’s cycles affect and connect with one another.

Lines of Inquiry

- Weather and how it relates to the seasons
- Steps of the water cycle and connection to weather
  - Patterns in the night sky
- Changes in states of matter

Summative Assessment: Students will create a “unit collage” or “four square.” Students will write cycles in the middle. In each of the squares they will explain the different cycles listed below. Students will need to write 3 or 4 sentences to explain the cycle and draw a picture.

Mrs. Allen  Ms. Wengler  Mrs. Berlin
Mrs. Calkins  Mrs. Doggett  Mrs. Breitenbach

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A peek at some of our Learning Experiences

- Students will watch and conduct various science experiments to exhibit changes in physical properties (melting, cutting, sanding, and folding).
- Students will create a Water Cycle in a Plastic Bag to show all steps (evaporation, condensation, and precipitation).
- Students will record the daily weather, noting changes in clouds and temperature from AM to PM.

Sample Books to Read

**Bartholomew and the Oobleck** By Dr. Seuss

**Matter: See It, Touch It, Taste It, Smell It** By Darlene R. Stille

**Melting, Freezing, and Boiling Science Projects with Matter** By Robert Gardner

**Investigating Matter** By Sally M. Walker

**The Magic Schoolbus at the Waterworks** By Joanna Cole

**The Water Cycle** By Robin Nelson

**What Is the World Made Of? All About Solids, Liquids and Gases** By Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld

**The Snowflake: A Water Cycle Story** By Neil Waldman

**The Cloud Book** by Tomie dePaola

**The Magic School Bus Inside a Hurricane** By Joanna Cole

**Twister On Tuesday (Magic Tree House, No 23)** By Mary Pope Osborne

**Down Comes the Rain (Let's-Read-and-Find-Out Science)** By Franklyn M. Branley

**The Moon** by Seymour Simon

**Arthur and the Comet Crisis: A Marc Brown Arthur Chapter Book 27** By Marc Brown


Sample Websites


http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/kids/flash/flash_watercycle.html

http://www.neok12.com/Water-Cycle.htm

http://www.scholastic.com/kids/weather/

http://kids.usa.gov/science/space/index.shtml

http://www.wonderville.ca/assets/phases-of-the-moon

Home Connection

Discuss examples of the water cycle stages seen at home (i.e. cooking- steam coming up from pot> evaporation; showering- water/steam on mirror> condensation; watching the rain> precipitation; etc.).

Each night study the moon's appearance and keep a log on the fridge, noticing the pattern of changes.

Watch the weather on the television or check daily on the internet and plan your weekly activities and clothes.

Reinforcing our in class science experiments by trying some of your own, to expand their knowledge of how heating and cooling matter changes their physical properties.
Newsletter Template

Customize the newsletter template to meet your classroom needs. Click inside a box to type your information. Change the boxes to whatever you’d like to include!

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