

# Make Your Own Freshwater

The water cycle takes salt water from the ocean and turns it into freshwater. When the salt water evaporates, it leaves the salt in the ocean. When the water vapor cools and turns into rain, it falls as freshwater! This is how rain fills lakes and rivers with freshwater. In this activity, you can explore how the water cycle turns salt water into fresh!

- 1 Pour the water into a large bowl and add the salt. Stir with the spoon.
- 2 Place the ceramic cup in the middle of the bowl of water. Make sure the water in the bowl is below the top of the cup.

## SUPPLIES

- ⊙ 2 cups water (470 milliliters)
- ⊙ large glass bowl
- ⊙ 3 teaspoons salt (15 milliliters)
- ⊙ spoon
- ⊙ ceramic mug or cup
- ⊙ plastic wrap
- ⊙ large rubber band
- ⊙ sunlight
- ⊙ small rock

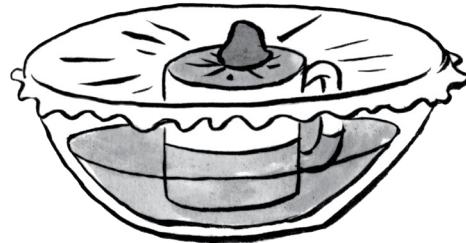
Did You Know?

When water from lakes, rivers, and ponds evaporates into the air, it leaves behind any impurities. This makes the water vapor cleaner than it was on Earth!



## ACTIVITY!

**3** Cover the bowl with plastic wrap and seal it tightly with a rubber band.



**4** Put your bowl in a safe place that gets lots of sunshine, such as a window sill. Place a small rock on top of the plastic, directly over the cup.

**5** After several hours, condensation should form on the underside of the plastic wrap. Drops of water should flow slowly downward into your cup. Check your cup. If it has water in it, you can drink it. It is now salt-free!

**HOW IT WORKS:** The sun's heat causes the water to evaporate into a gas. The salt stays in the glass bowl. When the evaporated water cools, it turns back into liquid. It becomes condensation on the plastic. The freshwater then runs down the plastic, into the cup!

