

# SCIENCE MOM'S Guide to WATER, Part 1

SEE? RAIN IS NO  
PROBLEM WHEN  
YOU HAVE AN  
UMBRELLA



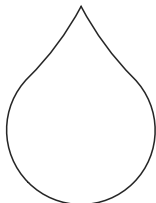
SCIENCE MOM

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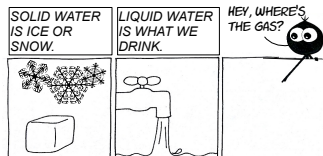
LOOK OUT!  
IT'S RAINING!



SO WHAT?  
I HAVE AN  
UMBRELLA

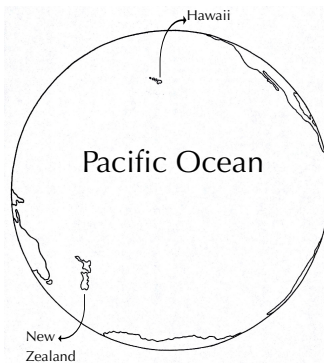


Water is the *only* thing on our planet that exists naturally in all three states of matter—as a solid, liquid, and a gas.

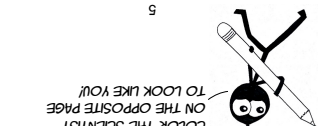
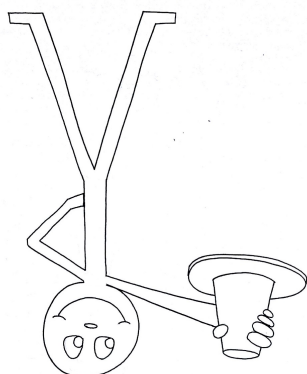


Gaseous water, or water vapor, is invisible. You can't see it, but it's in the air around you and we call it **humidity**. The more water vapor in the air, the more humid it is.

The only other things on earth that come close to existing in all three states of matter are mercury, acetic acid, and carbon dioxide. While all three states of matter are **possible** for each of these, they don't occur **naturally**. Water, on the other hand? It's everywhere.



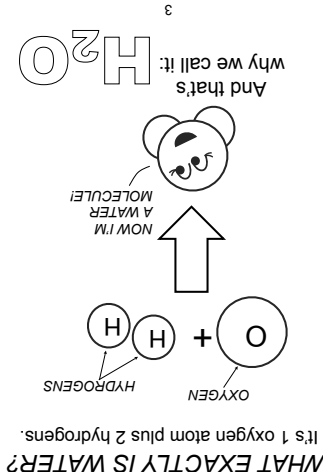
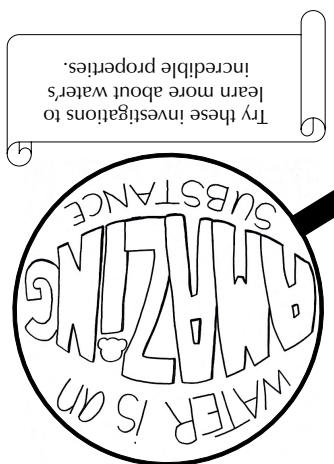
Oceans cover most of the surface of the earth, and at any given time about 50-70% of the planet is covered by another form of water: clouds.



**Method:**  
a) Pour water in the cup and place the lid on top.  
b) Place one hand on the lid and INVERT the cup (turn it upside down.)  
c) Remove hand and be amazed!

**Materials:**  
• Water  
• Cup  
• Plastic lid or a piece of cardboard

## 1. Gravity Defying Lid



## 2. Magic Screen

**Materials:**

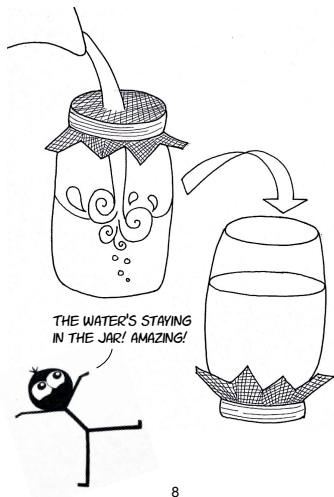
- Water
- Lid
- Canning jar with a metal ring
- A piece of screen or other mesh fabric

**Method:**

- Fill jar to rim and secure screen over the top.
- Cover with lid and flip over.
- Remove lid and observe.

No jar? No problem! Just use a cup and rubber band. But be sure the screen or mesh is **FLAT** and **TIGHT** across the rim of the cup.

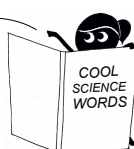
7



THE WATER'S STAYING  
IN THE JAR! AMAZING!

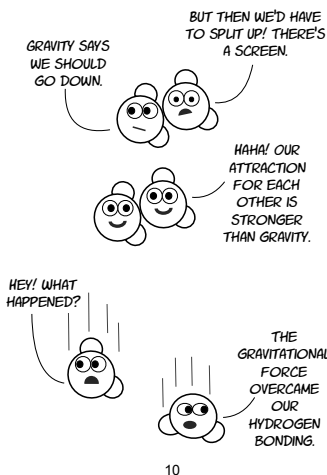
## HOW DOES IT WORK? Cohesion.

THAT MEANS WATER MOLECULES LIKE TO STICK TOGETHER!

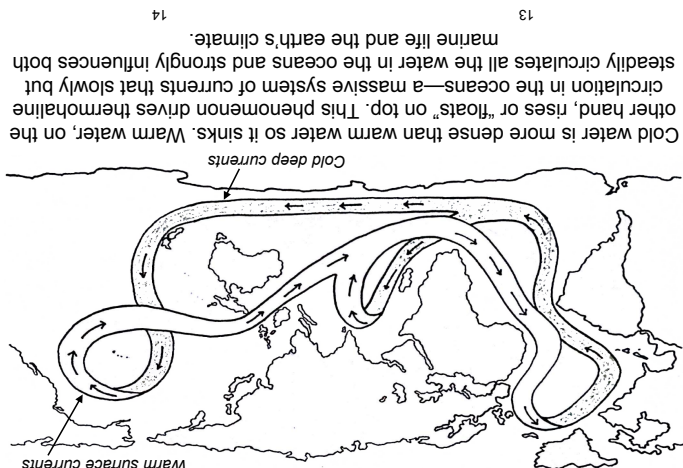


The water molecules are sticky, or cohesive. They are attracted to each other and the jar and the screen. That attraction is strong enough that they effectively form a "lid" on the bottom of the jar, just like the plastic lid did in the first investigation. If air doesn't come in, the water can't go out. So the water stays inside—until you shake or tip the jar. If you do either of those things, then gravity wins.

9



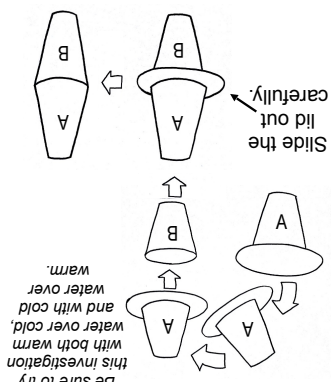
10



marine life and the earth's climate.

Cold water is more dense than warm water so it sinks. Warm water, on the other hand, rises or "floats" on top. This phenomenon drives the massive circulation in the oceans—a massive system of currents that slowly but steadily circulates all the water in the oceans and strongly influences both

Note: Removing the lid is best done with two people: one to hold the cups steady while the other pulls out the lid.



Be sure to try this investigation with both warm water over cold, and cold water over warm.

**Method:**  
a) Add different colors of food coloring to each cup.  
b) Fill each cup to the brim, one with warm water and the other with cold.  
c) Place a flat lid on one cup and invert it, then set it on top of the other cup.  
d) Slowly, slide the flat lid or cardboard out from between the cups.

**Materials:**  
• Food coloring  
• A flat lid or cardboard  
• 2 identical clear cups or jars  
• Warm and cold water

## 3. Hot & Cold Cups

B

A

A

X

B

C

C

D

F

E

E

D

E

G

G

X