



RAIN STICK

OVERVIEW

In this activity, campers will construct rain sticks and will learn about the water cycle and the importance of rain

TOPIC AREA(S)

- Habitats and communities
- The water cycle
- Ecology

GRADE LEVEL

3-4 (Circuits)

QUESTIONS PRIOR TO THE LESSON/GETTING EXCITED

- Who likes rainy weather?
- How is rain actually formed?
- Do you think rain is necessary?
- How important is water to life?
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BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR INSTRUCTORS (INCLUDE QUESTIONS W/ ANSWERS)

Water is essential to all life and all living organisms obtain water in some form or another. However, not all organisms obtain water in the same way. As mammals, we hydrate ourselves by drinking water as well as eating (some foods in particular have a higher water content and can contribute to hydration). Obviously, most plants don't have mouths, or arms for that matter, and must obtain water some way. Plants get their water in 2 main ways: 1) Absorbed by their roots in the soil, 2) Through RAIN

Rain is created by a process called the water cycle. This process occurs continuously which means it is happening constantly. Obviously in some parts of the world (deserts etc.) this cycle isn't seen to the same degree, or occurs much more slowly. The water cycle happens in 5 main stages:

- 1) Evaporation – the water on the surface of the Earth evaporates (the sun heats the water and turns it to vapour/gas)
- 2) The water vapour collects in the sky which makes clouds
- 3) Condensation- the water in the clouds gets cold, which turns it back into a liquid
- 4) Precipitation – the stored water falls from the sky in the form of rain, sleet, snow or hail (depending on how cold it is)
- 5) The water sinks into the surface (watering plants) and also collects into lakes,



oceans and aquifers. The water then evaporates again and restarts the cycle

RELEVANCE TO THE CURRICULUM			
Grade 1 and 2	Grade 3 and 4	Grade 5 and 6	Grade 7 and 8
Needs & Characteristics of Living Things Growth and Changes in Animals Materials, Objects and Everyday Structures Movement Energy in Our Lives Properties of Liquids and Solids Daily and Seasonal Changes Air and Water in the Environment	Growth and Changes in Plants Habitats and Communities Strong and Stable Structures Pulleys and Gears Forces Causing Movement Light and Sound Soils in the Environment Rocks and Minerals	Human Organ Systems Biodiversity Forces Acting on Structures and Mechanisms Flight Properties of and Changes in Matter Electricity and Electrical Devices Conservation of Energy and Resources Space	Interactions in the Environment Cells Form and Function Systems in Action Pure Substances and Mixtures Fluids Heat in the Environment Water Systems
MATERIALS (SPECIFY WHETHER PER CAMPER, GROUP OR CLASS)			
PER CAMPER:			



- 1 small wooden dowel or wooden spoon
- Aluminium foil
- Rice
- Clear tape
- Paper towel roll
- Broom handle
- Paper (coloured construction paper or normal white paper)
- Broom handle
- Scissors

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS

Be careful while using scissors

PROCEDURE

- 1) **Tear a piece of aluminium foil about 10 inches long**
- 2) **Twist the foil into a stick-like shape**



3) Wrap it around broom handle to make a spiral

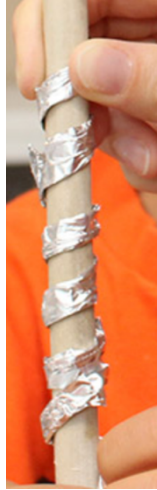


4) Tear a smaller piece of aluminium foil about 7 inches long

5) Twist this piece into a skinny wire-like shape



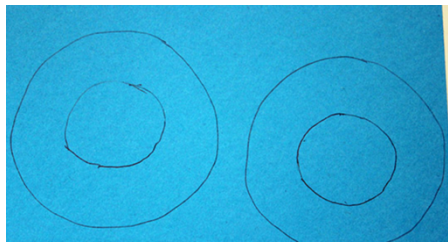
6) Wrap this wire piece around a dowel/wooden spoon to make a tight spiral



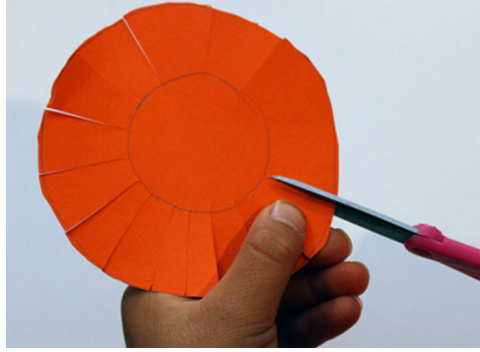
7) Now insert the small spiral into the larger one



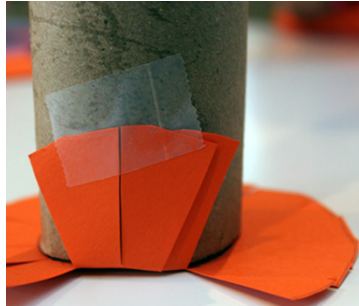
8) Next, place the roll of paper on the paper and trace a circle around it. Do this twice (once for each end). Then draw a bigger circle around the small ones just drawn.



9) Cut out the larger circles and then use the scissors to make slits from the outside of the circle inwards



10) Tape this piece to the end of the paper towel roll, wrapping the flaps up the side of the tube and secure them with clear tape



11) Once the end of the tube is secured, insert the intertwined coils into the tube



12) Add about a ¼ cup of dry rice to the tube

13) Seal the other end of the tube with the other circle of paper we cut



14) Decorate the tube any way you like and make it rain!!

REFERENCES

<https://www.giftofcuriosity.com/diy-rain-stick-craft/>
https://simple.wikipedia.org/wiki/Water_cycle