

Cloud in a Jar

Materials

- clear glass jar
- metal tray or plate
- ice cubes
- hot water
- matches (optional)

Creating Your Cloud

1. Fill the jar with about 2 inches of hot water and stir.
2. Light a match, blow it out, and drop it into the jar (optional).
3. Once the smoke clears, place the ice tray on top.
4. Watch a cloud form!

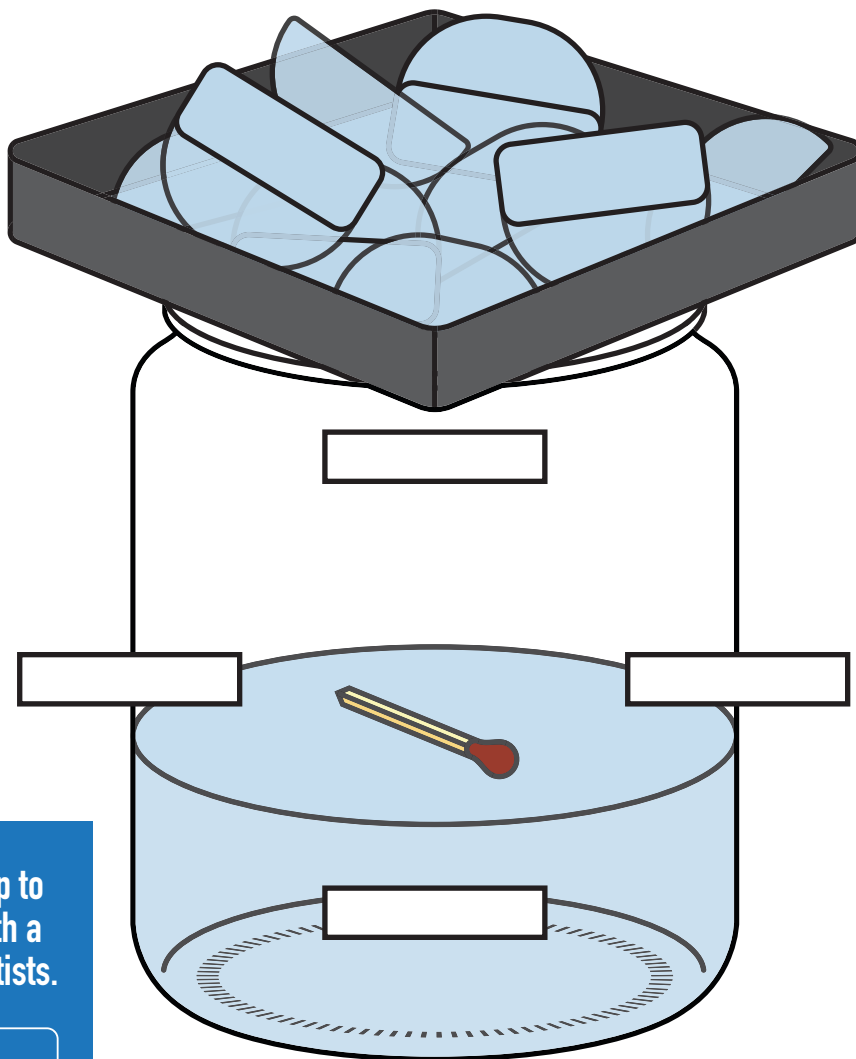
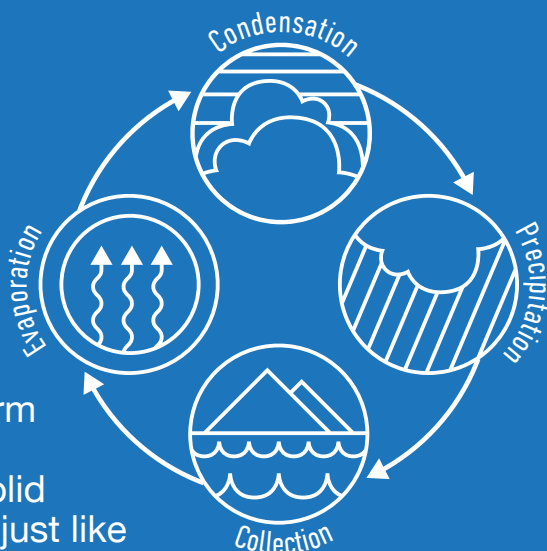
What's Happening?

In this activity, stirring the water increases the amount of water vapor in the jar. As the water vapor rises towards the cool tray, it condenses onto particles in the air. If you used a match, this effect will be even more dramatic because of the smoke particles.

Sketch what you see happening inside of the jar and label the parts of the water cycle.

How do clouds form?

Our atmosphere is full of water vapor, but we can't see it. So why can we see clouds? Clouds form when water vapor condenses onto solid particles in the air, just like how water vapor condenses onto the side of a cool glass on a warm day.



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