



# Unit Study: Water

## **Accessing Prior Knowledge**

What do you already know?

Consider making a unit notebook to write down what is already known and to later record what is learned. Keeping a unit notebook encourages students to record and reflect on inquiry-based observations, activities, investigations, and experiments. Unit notebooks are also an excellent way to communicate understanding of concepts through writing and drawing.

*Subject Areas: Communication, Writing, Art*

## **Fieldwork**

Use your senses. What do you notice? What do you want to know more about?

- “Play” with water and notice how it “behaves.”
- Think about water in your home and your community. How do you use water at home? How is water used in your community?
- Where do you see water outdoors? Who needs water?
- Use your unit notebook to make notes about your observations.
- What do you want to learn more about...
  - The water cycle?
  - Water conservation?
  - The properties of water?

*Subject Areas: Communication, Writing, Art, Science*

## **Research—Using Resources to Learn More**

What resources will you use to learn more about the topic? Here are some suggestions.

**Videos:**

- Water Cycle –
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=al-do-HGuIk>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5gFI3pMvoI>
  - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s0bS-SBAGJI>
- Water Conservation – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B4ZR53n0D8I>
- Properties of Water – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0py6BFIFZ>
- States of Matter – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tuE1LePDZ4Y>
- Awesome Water Tricks – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wXwSpfYBD4>

**Websites:**

- Water – Use It Wisely – <https://wateruseitwisely.com/kids/>

**Print Resources:**

- *All the Water in the World* by George Lyon
- *Water is Water: A book About the Water Cycle* by Miranda Paul
- *A Drop Around the World* by Barbara Shaw
- *One Well: The Story of Water on Earth* by Rochelle Strauss
- *Why Water's Worth It* by Lori Harrison
- *A Drop of Water* by Walter Wick

*Subject Areas: Reading and Language Arts, Science*

**Active Learning Through Experiments, Experiences, and Simulations**

What activities can I participate in that will deepen my understanding? Take notes and make diagrams about what you did and what you learned.

**Experiments That You Can Try at Home:**

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p8oHxZtNnw>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5NCOnr3VSAY>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1p8oHxZtNnw>

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RAXymmaptHw>

**Project:**

- Build a Rain Gauge – <https://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Rain-Gauge>

*Subject Areas: Reading, Writing, Science, Math*

**Presentation and Reflection**

What did you learn? Your unit notebook is an excellent collection of the work that you did, the discoveries that you made, the questions that you had.

Share your unit notebook with someone: your family, friends, your mentor.

Talk about your findings.

What feedback did you get?

What do you want to know more about?