

JAMES AND THE GIANT THE PEACH

ACTIVITY SHEET

INDOOR WEATHER

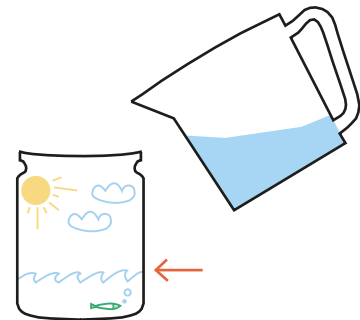
In James and the Giant Peach, the formidable Cloud Men control the weather, hurling rain, hail and rainbows at James and his friends. In this activity you will make your own weather in a jar and learn how rain is produced through the constant recycling of the Earth's water.

1.



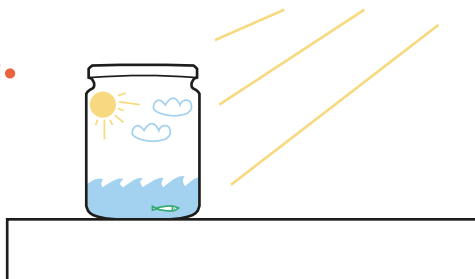
Find a metal topped jam jar. Decorate using permanent markers, paint or cut out pieces of paper to add the sun and clouds at the top of your jar and the sea or a lake at the bottom.

2.



Remove the jam jar lid and pour in a couple of centimetres of water (until the jar is about 1/5th full). Replace the lid.

3.



Place the jam jar in a bright, sunny place. A window sill, balcony or garden is perfect for this. Make sure it's somewhere you can easily see.

4.



As the sun warms the water in your jar you should see the water turn into a vapour and then condense, causing "rain" to fall down the side of your jar (read more on why this happens below).

THE WATER CYCLE

The water on Earth is constantly recycled in a process called the water cycle. Water on land (such as the sea, a river or lake) is heated by the sun and turns into water vapour (this is a little like steam coming out of your kettle). This water vapour rises upwards and cools in the air, where it turns back into teeny tiny droplets of water, which forms clouds. As more water forms in the cloud, these clouds get heavy and the water falls back to the ground in the form of rain (or hail, or snow). Rain water then runs over the ground and joins lakes or rivers, which in turn carry it back to the sea to start the cycle all over again.