

Lesson Plan

The Water Cycle

Teacher	Ms. Carter	Subject	Science
Grade	4th grade	Date / length	Oct 12, 2026 · 45 min

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Name and describe the four stages of the water cycle.
- Explain how the sun's energy drives the cycle.
- Draw and label a diagram of the water cycle.

STANDARDS

NGSS 4-ESS2-1, 5-ESS2-1 (adapt to your state or curriculum)

MATERIALS

Clear plastic bag, water, blue food coloring, tape, markers, water cycle worksheet, short video (3 min).

LESSON PROCEDURE

Stage	Time	Activity
Warm-up	5 min	Ask: "Where does rain come from?" Write answers on the board.
Direct instruction	10 min	Watch the video, then explain evaporation, condensation, precipitation and collection.
Guided practice	15 min	Build a "water cycle in a bag" and tape it to a sunny window. Predict what will happen.
Independent practice	10 min	Students draw and label their own water cycle diagram.
Wrap-up	5 min	Exit ticket: name one stage and explain it in one sentence.

DIFFERENTIATION

Support: labeled diagram with word bank. **Challenge:** explain how the water cycle affects weather in your area.

ASSESSMENT

Labeled diagram (correct stages and arrows) and exit ticket answers.

REFLECTION NOTES

What worked? What would I change next time? _____