

Water Cycle Bracelet

It is important for children to understand the cycle that water goes through over and over in order for Virginia and the rest of the world to have the water we need. Because water is so important for farmers there are several things that they may do to conserve it and keep it clean. For example, they might utilize watering systems that put water directly at the plants' roots – this allows more water to get straight to the plant instead of evaporating. They may also employ vegetative or conservation buffers, which are trees or grasses that are planted in between fields and waterways. These act as a barrier, helping keep pollutants out of the water. Additionally, cover crops are a way that farmers take care of the land and water. Cover crops, such as rye grass or clover, protect the soil from wind and water erosion. Additionally, cover crops help keep nutrients in the soil and out of the waterways.

You will need:

Pony beads (yellow, white, blue, clear)
Pipe cleaner

How to:

1. Discuss with children the importance of the water cycle to grow plants, provide water for animals, and provide us with lakes and streams.
2. Have children create of water cycle bracelet by stringing beads on a pipe cleaner in the following order:
 - Yellow – represents the sun which heats the Earth
 - Clear- represents evaporation when water turns to vapor and rises into the sky
 - White- represents condensation as the water vapor joins with dust to form clouds
 - Blue- represents precipitation as water falls back to the Earth as rain, sleet, or snow
3. Share the water cycle song.

The Water Cycle Song!

(To the tune of She'll Be Comin' 'Round the Mountain)

Water travels in a cycle, yes it does!

Water travels in a cycle, yes it does!

It goes up as evaporation

Forms clouds as condensation

Then falls down as precipitation

Yes it does!



Suggested Books:

Down by the Cool of the Pool by Tony Mitton



For more resources to connect children to agriculture visit AgInTheClass.org.