



Rain In A Jar

Description

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Students complete an experiment related to rain.

Supplies

- White shaving cream
- Blue food coloring
- Water
- Pipettes
- Clear jars or cups

How to Play

1. **Prep work:** Fill up the bottom half of each of the cups/ jars with water.
2. Give each student a clear plastic cup/jar. Walk around and add shaving cream to cover the whole top of the opening. *(Don't do this step too far ahead because the experiment will not work properly.)*
3. Explain that the shaving cream represents a cloud and the water is like the air.
4. Make the "rain" by mixing water and blue food coloring together in a separate cup or dish.
5. Ask the group what they think will happen when they drop the blue food coloring mixture into the cloud.
6. After students share their predictions, allow each of them to use the pipette and drop the "rain" on top of the cloud. Reminding them to just squeeze the pipette lightly and only do one drop at a time all around the cloud.
7. While they drop the mixture into the cloud, the blue food coloring should weigh down the cloud and make what looks like blue rain falling into the water part of the jar/cup.
8. Explain the process of rain. Clouds fill with water through a process called evaporation. Heat from

the sun causes the water on the earth to be evaporated. This water turns into vapor and rises up into the clouds, and turns into water again during a process called condensation. The shaving cream in our experiment is acting as the cloud and the droppers act as the condensation process, turning the vapor back into water and making the cloud too full. Which then makes it rain.

Activity Prompts for Reflection

- Sometimes the weather outside can affect our moods. What emotion do you feel when it's raining outside? Sunny? Snowing? Storming?
- How were you able to stay focused during this activity?
- What were some positive choices you needed to make throughout this experiment?
- What were some surprises that happened during this experiment?

Other Ways to Play

- For younger students, have one jar up at the front of the group and have students circle around and observe what happens with the cloud. Students can take turns adding drops from the pipette.
- Use a variety of colors of food coloring to make the rain look even more unique or allow students to pick the rain color they would like to make for their mixture.

Additional Notes

- Use the [SEL Activity Prompts](#) to tie other SEL competencies to this activity.
- This activity often gets messy so try to find a space that can easily be cleaned up.

Category

1. Activities
2. Self-Management

Sel-competency

1. Self-Management

Allotted-time

1. 15-20 minutes

Themes

1. STEM