

Water Cycle Lab

SC.A.1.2.2, SC.D.1.2.2, SC.D.1.2.3, and SC.H.1.2.3



- **Grade level:** 4th and 5th
- **Time:**
 - Introduction to the water cycle: 30 minutes
 - Activity as group project: 45 minutes
 - Discussion after experiment 20 minutes
- **Materials needed:** Plastic container, Petri dish, lamp, water, and crushed ice.
- **Procedure:**
 1. Discuss the water cycle with students.
 2. Using the clay, shape a mountain.
 3. Place the mountain on one side of the plastic container with the sloped side facing the interior of the box where the "ocean" will be.
 4. Pour water into the "ocean" basin until about one-fourth of the mountain slope is covered.
 5. Replace the lid of the plastic container.
 6. Place a Petri dish on top of the plastic container over the mountain.
 7. Place crushed ice into the Petri dish.
 8. Position the lamp over the ocean. Turn on the lamp. **CAUTION: THE LAMP WILL GET HOT. DO NOT TOUCH THE BULB OR SHADE.**
 9. Have students observe the container carefully and note any changes that they see. It might help to add a little smoke to the plastic container to help them see the circulation. (A few matches lit, then blown out and quickly dropped into the plastic container will work).