



Variations and Extended Learning: Literacy Adventure: It's Raining, It's Pouring!

Exploring nonfiction about rain and the water cycle

Aventura de alfabetización: Llueve a Cántaros

Literatura de no ficción sobre la lluvia y el ciclo del agua



Try any of these research-supported tips for engaging participants of various ages, cultures, languages, and abilities and for shortening or extending activities to suit the needs of your program schedule.



Key Elements and Strategies for Any K-3 Literacy Adventure

Key Elements:

Every literacy adventure should include these fundamental, [research-based](#) elements to foster literacy development. Detailed tips and strategies can be found in the document [Key Elements and Key Strategies](#).

- Read aloud
- Book browsing and choice
- Nurture diversity
- Draw connections
- Have fun!

Key Strategies

These key strategies will help you implement an activity rich in literacy skill-building.

- Read aloud interactively
- Ask the three VTS questions
- Make time for discussion in pairs
- Extend language
- Nurture diversity in languages

Hook: Human Rainstorm Activity

Variation:

- Increase the accessibility of this activity by including principles of universal design such providing multiple ways for participants to participate. Consider including some of the following modifications:
 - Provide shakers, rhythm sticks, or other instruments for participants to use to make sounds.
 - Model different ways to make sounds with one's body or one's voice.

Short on Time:

- You can omit the practice round if you feel confident that your participants can follow along with your movements without verbal cues.

Adventure: (20 mins): Rain Cloud in a Cup

Variation: Alternative/Additional Experiments: Feel free to try a different experiment with your participants. Here are some ideas and resources for experiments about rain and the water cycle:

Print books that include experiments:

- [Step-by-Step Experiments with the Water Cycle](#), Shirley Duke. 2012.
- [Water: Explore, Create, and Investigate](#), Isabel Thomas. 2016
- [The Water Cycle](#), Nate Ball. 2017
- [I am the Rain](#), John Paterson. 2018

Websites:

- [The Water Projects](#)
- [Science Sparks](#)

Extended Learning:

Consider selecting 3 or 4 experiments and setting up stations around your program space for participants and caregivers to explore. Additional experiments are available through the books and websites above or you can use some you already know how to do. Consider including experiments that highlight different parts of the water cycle or different types of weather. You could also consider adding a station with a tablet set up to an interactive water cycle activity. Here is an example:

- [The Blue Traveler: A Trip through the Water Cycle](#)

Book Browsing Time: Nonfiction Bonanza!

Variation:

- Consider including a laptop or tablet with access to your library's ebook collection for participants to browse. Highlight an ebook during your booktalk to give participants some quick tips on how to open and navigate electronic books.
- Consider including a podcast for kids about science, specifically an episode that discusses water or the weather. Set up a listening station with a tablet or laptop and a pair of headphones during the nonfiction bonanza. The Brains On Podcast, a science podcast for kids, has an episode devoted to the weirdness of water:
 - [Brains On! The Wonderful Weirdness of Water](#)

Wrap-up: Share Out Book Choices

Extended Learning: If you have enough time, consider inviting participants to share with another participant about one of the books they looked at before having them tell about what book they plan to borrow. Use a bell or a call and response clap to prompt participants to switch roles after about a minute.

Say: *Take a minute to share with your neighbor or someone you know about one of the books you were just reading that you like. You might want to tell them why they would want to read the book and share a favorite panel or page. If you have trouble thinking of what to say you could try (read the prompts and write them so everyone can see):*

Sentence Prompts:

- I picked....
- You should try this book because....
- This is my favorite part of the book because....