

# The water cycle

Concept—Water moves in a cycle

## CURRICULUM LINK:

Geography Curriculum—Natural Environments strand  
Energy books—*Energy Resources in Ireland*, page 13

## Experiment

### You will need:

- Plastic bag with a seal—a freezer bag or sandwich bag
- Lamp

1. Pour about half a cup of water into the plastic bag and seal the top.
2. Place the bag near (but not touching) the bulb of the lamp. If it is sunny outside, you don't need to use a lamp—put the bag out on the window sill.
3. After about an hour have a look at the bag and see if you notice any changes.

Water moves in a cycle. The heat from the sun causes water to evaporate (you will have noticed droplets of water on your plastic bag). As water vapour rises it cools and condenses to form small water droplets, which make up clouds. The water then falls as rain to rejoin water in rivers, lakes and oceans to start the water cycle again.

### Do more:

Above is a very simple model of the water cycle. You could design and make a better model to show various parts of the water cycle, such as sun, clouds, rain, rivers, lakes and oceans.

