Activity sheet 15 August 2022

SDGs 4,12,13, 15

Where does the rain go?

We know that the rain falls from the clouds in the sky. But where does all that rain go when it reaches the ground? A lot of rain will fall over the sea as there is more sea than land on our planet's surface! But we often see the rain on the ground. It might form puddles or it might seem to disappear! Lets investigate!

Some rain drops are much bigger than others, so here is a bit of fun you can try.

Fill a container with flour – use something like an oblong small margarine or soft cheese container.

Next time it rains hold the container outside to catch about 10-15 droplets and bring it back inside

Now very carefully, put a sieve over the container and gently pour the flour through it. You will finish up with lumps in the sieve – these are your raindrops.

Carefully tip them onto a sheet of paper and measure them!! Are they bigger or smaller than you expected!

Some of this rain will fall into rivers or lakes. Some rain falls on high mountains perhaps as snow, which turns into ice and makes glaciers. Some rain falls onto roads or concrete and then into the drains where it is cleaned and recycled.

But most rain just falls onto the vegetation and the earth. It runs down the plant stems into the soil or it runs between the grains of soil down to the rock below.

Some rocks have lots of holes or pores in them which fill up with the rainwater which very slowly moves deeper down into the ground. These are rocks like sandstone or some limestones and chalk.

You can try and find out how much water a piece of sandstone can hold by putting some water in a clear beaker and marking the level on the side of the beaker, Carefully put in the piece

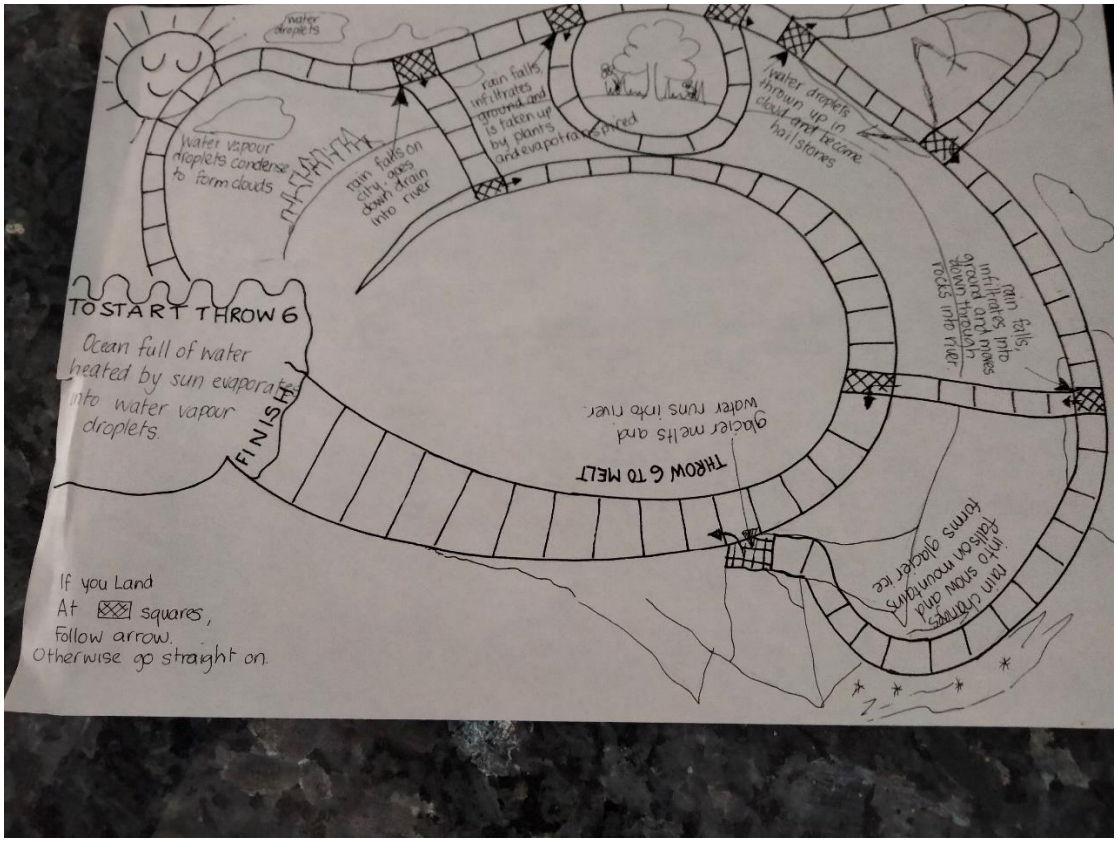
of sandstone and leave it for about 5 minutes. Carefully take it out and leave all the drips in the beaker. Now look at the new water level and you will see how much water is in your rock. Of course if you want to be really precise you can weigh your rock before and after you put it in the water to find out exactly how much water it holds.

We call this water held in the rock ‘groundwater’ and it is very useful as we can pump it out to use in our houses or we can reach it through wells. Rocks like chalk ,limestone and sandstone are very good at storing water underground. Geologists know where to look for this water and so do some animals.

A lot of water flows back into the sea and so the whole system starts again. We call this the Water Cycle.

On the next page you will find a game called the Water Cycle Race which shows you where the rain goes. Some of it falls as snow or hailstones, so watch out, and enjoy learning about where our rain goes. You need to copy the sheet onto a large piece of paper or card (A3 size) and make a coloured raindrop counter for each player. You also need a dice! Have fun and found out what happens to our rain s it falls from the sky.

Don’t forget that water is very precious and there is only a certain amount on the Earth so we must be careful how we use it and not waste it.



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