Kindergarten - Lesson K1.1
What Makes it Rain?
NGSS Alignment

Performance Expectations

K-ESS2-1: Use and share observations of local weather conditions to describe patterns over time.

Note: This lesson investigates the weather condition or phenomena of rain by focusing on what clouds are made of and what happens in a cloud to make it rain.

Disciplinary Core Ideas

K-ESS2.D: Weather and Climate

- Weather is the combination of sunlight, wind, snow or rain, and temperature in a particular region at a particular time. (K-ESS2-1)

    Students make a model and view an animation to see that a cloud is composed of tiny droplets of water which join together to make larger heavier rain drops which eventually fall as rain.

Science and Engineering Practices

Analyzing and Interpreting Data

- Use observations (firsthand or from media) to describe patterns in the natural world in order to answer scientific questions. (K-ESS2-1)

    Students use tiny drops of water to make a model of a cloud to answer the question: What makes it rain? Students refine their understanding of the connection between clouds and rain by discovering that clouds are actually made from tiny drops of water which eventually fall as rain.

Crosscutting Concepts

Patterns

- Patterns in the natural world can be observed, used to describe phenomena, and used as evidence. (K-ESS2-1)

Cause and Effect

- Events have causes that generate observable patterns.

    Students investigate the cause of rain and the connection between clouds and rain. Students see that tiny drops accumulate into larger drops and fall as rain.