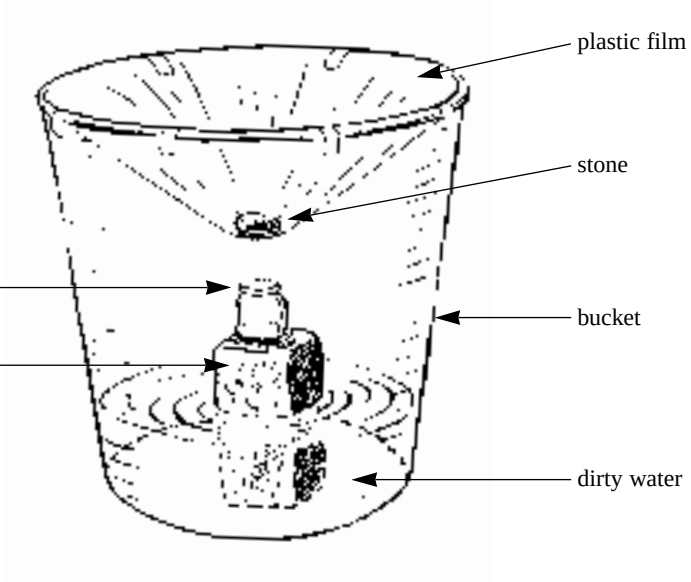
Waitakere City Council
Te Taiao o Waitakere

WATER CYCLE ACTIVITY SEVEN

Here is a chance to build a working model of the water cycle and observe evaporation, condensation and precipitation in action. You will need a plastic bucket, enough plastic film to cover the bucket, some tape to stick this down, a brick, a clean jar, some dirty water, and a stone.

1. Set up the experiment so that it looks like the diagram below. You should do this first thing in the morning, then leave the bucket outside where it will be in the sun all day. The stone needs to be just heavy enough to make the clear plastic slope downwards so that it is directly above the jar opening. Make sure the plastic film is securely taped to the bucket.



2. Look at the experiment each hour for four hours and find a way of recording what changes you see. Be sure not to undo the plastic film or disturb the experiment in any way.
3. At the end of four hours, undo the plastic film and look inside. If there is water in the jar, how does this look compared to the water in the bucket? Find a way to report your findings from this experiment.
4. Explain to someone how the natural water cycle works by using the results of this experiment as an example. Include the words ‘evaporation’, ‘condensation’ and ‘precipitation’ in your explanation.