

# 1. *Evaporation/Water Cycle*

## Episode Summary

A question about a mysterious shrinking puddle that eventually disappears puzzles Mark. Peri jumps in to explain about evaporation, how clouds form, and precipitation.

## Pre-Viewing Activities

### Keywords

evaporate  
puddle  
rain  
sun

### Exploration Activity

Wipe the chalkboard with a wet paper towel and have students observe what happens. Ask students to explain where the water goes. Then have students describe why they think puddles of water always disappear.

## Post-Viewing Activities

### Hands-On Science

Make puddles of water on the concrete outside and trace them with sidewalk chalk. Record the size of the puddle on a piece of notebook paper. At regular intervals retrace the puddles and record the sizes of the puddles. Continue to do this until the puddles disappear. Ask students, “Do puddles evaporate more quickly in the shade or in the sun? Why? Do large puddles take longer to evaporate than small ones? Do puddles evaporate even on a cloudy day?”

### Curriculum Connections

#### Math

Pour 50 mL of water into an open container and 50 mL of water into a container with a lid. Place the containers on a table or a surface (preferably near a window or in a sunny spot) where they can remain undisturbed for a length of time. Each day, have students observe the level of

water in each container and mark a new line if necessary. Create graphs to show how much water evaporated each day.

### **Social Studies**

Invite someone from the local water department to visit your classroom and discuss the watershed and where local tap water comes from. Ask the representative from the local water department to show students a map of the water collection and distribution system.

### **Language Arts**

Have students read *The Magic School Bus Wet All Over: A Book About The Water Cycle (Magic School Bus)*, by Pat Relf. Then ask students to write their own stories about the water cycle.