The Water Cycle

Environmental Science

- Introduction (~3 minutes)
  - What are some ways we use water?
  - Where can we find water?
  - What different types of water are there?

- Activity: The life of a water molecule (~15 minutes)
  - Have students hypothesize about where they think the water molecules go the most.
  - Set up each of the five stations around the classroom (Ice, Surface Water, Ground Water, Clouds, and Plants) with two dice at each station. The students with roll a die to see where they will go next. They will keep track of each station they go to, so that they can tally up at the end to see where they go the most! Let them continue this for about 10 minutes, to get a good number of places!

- Discussion (~5 minutes)
  - Which place did your water molecules go to the most? Why do you think it happens that the molecules go to the clouds the most?

- Activity: showing the water cycle (~15 minutes)
  - Each table or pair of students should get a mason jar. Fill the mason jar with boiling water and seal the lid right away. Place ice on the lid of the jar immediately. The students should be able to observe evaporation, condensation, and precipitation within the jar!
  - Have them record their observations!

- Conclusion (~5 minutes)
  - Why is water so important to us?
  - What did you learn about the water cycle?
  - Can you name some types of precipitation besides rain?