

STORM IN A TEACUP

Show your section how clouds work and why it rains with this easy activity

SUITABLE FOR **BEAVERS** AND **CUBS**



1 Take a clear glass or plastic cup and fill with water, leaving a two-inch gap at the top.

2 Take some shaving foam and fill to the top of the glass.

3 Ask your Section to use a pipette to squirt food colouring (we suggest a strong colour such as blue or red) into the shaving foam, one pipette-full at a time.

4 After a while (be patient, this can take some time), the shaving foam cloud will reach saturation point and the coloured drops will pass through, making it look like it's 'raining' in the water.



TIME NEEDED
5–10 minutes

EQUIPMENT NEEDED

- Clear glass or plastic cup
- Food colouring
- Shaving cream
- Pipette

THIS ACTIVITY LINKS WITH THE FOLLOWING BADGES



Beaver Experiment
Activity Badge



Cub Scientist
Activity Badge

OUTCOMES

This activity will show your Section that clouds are, in fact, formed of water vapour until the droplets become large enough to be released as rain when gravity takes over. The food colouring helps illustrate this process in a simple, eye-catching way. It's important to let each young person have a go and take turns at adding the food colouring so they all feel as though they've contributed to the activity.

OTHER SECTIONS FOR SCOUTS

Try experimenting with the absorbency of different materials. Use varying materials such as a sponge, cotton wool, cardboard etc, to discover their optimum point of absorption. You could take then mark them in order of absorbency.

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