

# Storm in a Jar

**What You Need:**

- 1 large glass jar
- A handful of ice cubes
- 1 sturdy metal screen.
- Hot, almost boiling, water. Enough to fill the jar 2-3 inches

**CAUTION:** This experiment uses hot water. Do this experiment with an adult!

**Instructions:**

Pour the hot water into the jar. Quickly place the screen on top of the jar, and the ice on top of the screen. Observe what happens to the jar!

**Why does it do that?**

When water is warmed it turns into gas called *water vapor*. When it cools again, it turns back into liquid water.

When you heated the water, some of it turned into water vapor. After the water vapor touched the cool glass jar it turned back into tiny water droplets that stuck to the sides. The ice on top of the jar helped more water vapor turn back into liquid.

As more water vapor turned into liquid, the droplets on the sides of the jar got bigger and bigger until they were too heavy to stick. They fell back to the bottom of the jar.

**Does that sound familiar?**

The same thing happens when clouds form in the sky! Water vapor floats up into the air until it cools in the atmosphere. The tiny droplets stick together in the form of clouds, and when they get too big, they fall back to earth as rain, snow, sleet, and hail!

**For more information on weather and the water cycle,  
visit [http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/water/water\\_walk.html](http://www.ext.colostate.edu/pubs/water/water_walk.html)**

**Send us pictures of your group doing this experiment!**

Let us know how this experiment worked for you! Send us your digital photos and you could see yourself on the

Colorado State Extension website, Walking the Water Year!

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