

## Follow a Raindrop

### Summary

Without water, life could not exist. Rainwater helps supply the water that our bodies need. We use it for drinking, bathing, cooking, and washing. We use it to water crops, manufacture goods, and make electricity. Rain is how many living things get the water they need. Water changes as part of the water cycle. The Sun heats surface water. The water evaporates and rises as water vapor. As water vapor cools, it condenses to form clouds. Finally, the rain feeds into the Earth's water systems and the process starts over again.

### Before Reading

#### Activate Prior Knowledge

Provide background for students by previewing the book. Discuss the text features and preview the key vocabulary and concepts.

#### Vocabulary

atmosphere, classify, molecule, natural disaster, perspiration, saturation, transpiration

#### Comprehension Skill: Cause and Effect

Remind students that often when one thing happens it causes another thing to happen. Ask students to read to find out what happens as water changes and why.

### During Reading

#### Think Critically

Have students answer the *What Did You Learn?* questions located on the inside back cover of their book.

**1. How are raindrops formed?** They form when water vapor condenses. The droplets form clouds and fall to Earth as rain.

**2. Why is rain important?** Rain is how many living things get water. It is part of the water cycle that constantly replenishes the Earth's fresh water.

**3. How big are raindrops?** They typically measure between one-half millimeter and four millimeters.

### After Reading

#### Writing in Science

Every single raindrop is part of the water cycle. Write to explain how a raindrop travels through the water cycle. Include details from the book to support your answer.

#### Organize Information

*Graphic Organizer: Cause and Effect* Have students complete the Cause and Effect chart on the BLM for this Leveled Reader to tell the effect water vapor has when it condenses and turns to liquid high up in the atmosphere.

#### Related Resources

Vocabulary Cards	Equipment Kit
Every Student Learns	LabZone
Activity Flipchart	Quick Study
Graphic Organizer Transparencies	
Quick Activity Transparency	
<a href="http://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com">www.pearsonsuccessnet.com</a>	

**Write your answers.**

1. What natural disasters can rain cause?

**Rain can cause floods and mudslides.**

2. How are transpiration and perspiration alike? How are they different?

**Both ways give off water. Plants give off water in transpiration; water leaves people's bodies in perspiration.**

3. What is likely to happen to a raindrop if it does not land in a body of water?

**The raindrop might evaporate in the air or be absorbed into the ground.**

4. When water vapor condenses and turns to liquid high up in the atmosphere, what is the effect? Use the graphic organizer to help you.

**Possible answer:**

### **Cause and Effect**

