

The Sun Dries Water Experiment

This experiment helps students understand that the sun dries up water and introduces evaporation.

Tell students that they are going to go outside and paint with water. Ask if they think their paintings will last all day. After concluding that the heat from the sun will dry their paintings, have them estimate how long they think it will take for the sun to dry up their paintings and have them write it down.

Take students outside and allow them to paint the sidewalk, patio, or driveway with water. After they paint one picture or word or after they have painted for a set period of time, set a timer and see how long it takes for their paintings to dry. Drying times will vary depending on the outdoor temperature.

I have found that young students **love** doing this activity and it can keep them busy for hours. They love using “grown up” paint rollers and brushes, paint trays, etc. to paint just about anything outside (the ground, the playground equipment, the building, the fence, etc.). It is great gross motor skill practice! They can paint sight words, letters, numbers, shapes, etc. as well for extra skill practice.



You can also have students paint in both the sun and the shade and predict drying times for each.

To better demonstrate water evaporation, paint a piece of construction paper with water and then seal it inside a Ziploc bag with enough air inside so the top of the bag doesn't touch the paper. Place it in a sunny area (certain colors of construction paper can bleed when wet, place the baggie on a cookie sheet or newspaper if desired). Observe the baggie after the water starts to dry and condense on the baggie. Explain that the water from the

paper evaporated and turned to water vapor which was trapped in the bag and condensed on the top as water droplets.

