

Year 6 science

Fog and clouds

Australian Curriculum links: Year 6 Science

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In this activity, students are introduced to water's different states of matter using 'The water cycle' poster and 'Whizzy's incredible journeys' pick-a-path book.

Equipment

For the class

- [The water cycle](#) poster
- [Whizzy's incredible adventures pick-a-path book](#) river journey
- hand-held mirror
- the 'Why does the mirror fog up' concept cartoon (Resource 1)

For each student

- paper, pencils
- art materials

Activity steps

1. Select a student to come to the front of the class. Hold out the mirror so everyone can see. Ask the student to breathe heavily on the mirror. Discuss what happens and introduce or review the concept of condensation (the fog on the mirror is an example of condensation).

Alternatively or in addition to, use the 'Foggy mirror' concept cartoon to identify students' prior knowledge about condensation. Use the same concept cartoon at the end of the lesson to review student learning.

2. Ask students what else they know about condensation. Perhaps they remember it is a term used in the water cycle.
3. Display 'The water cycle' poster on an electronic whiteboard or computer. Briefly discuss the main aspects of the water cycle e.g.
 - precipitation
 - condensation
 - evaporation
 - infiltration
 - run off
 - transpiration

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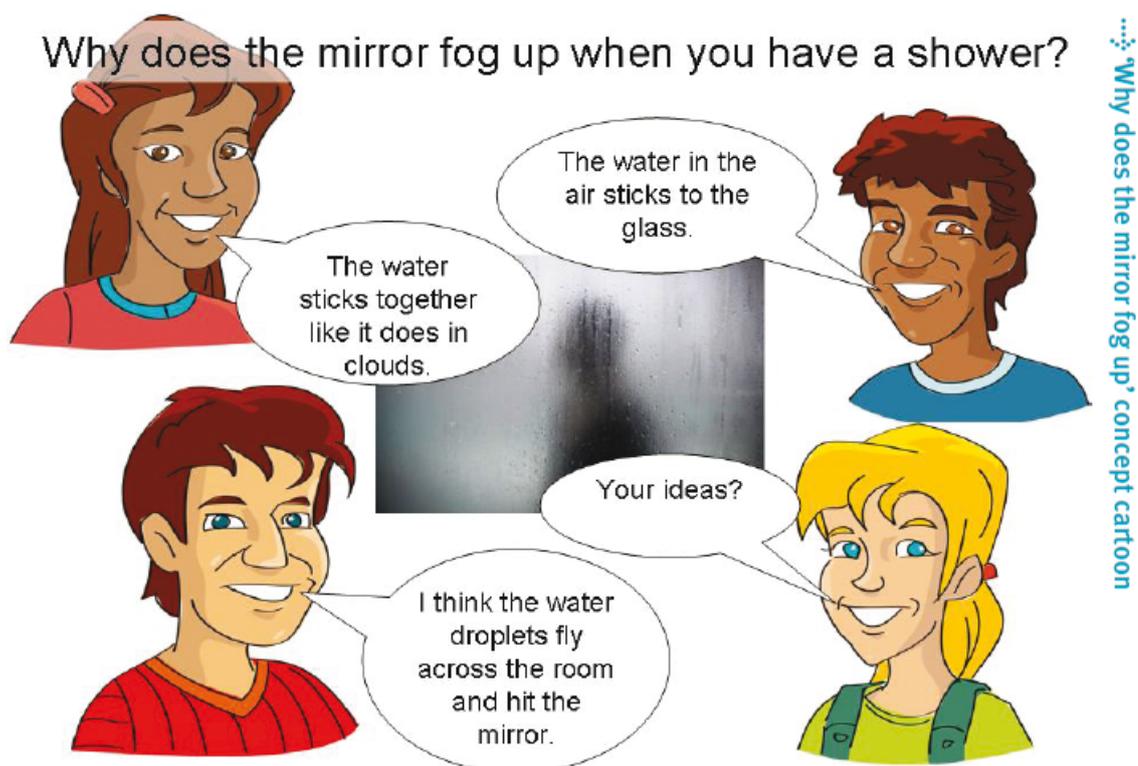
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4. Discuss the idea that water comes in different forms: solid, liquid and gas. Ask students to identify which form Whizzy takes in different parts of the poster. Reinforce the idea that when water is in a gas form (water vapour), it is invisible and that it becomes visible when it cools enough to condense into droplets of water. Discuss the fact that water can be in any of the three states and that water changes state as the temperature changes. Ask students why there is no ice in the poster (it's a Queensland water cycle!).
5. Read 'Whizzy's incredible adventures' pick-a-path book and follow the river journey. Discuss what happens to Whizzy during the journey. Questions could include:
 - How are clouds formed?
 - What factors play a part in condensation?
 - What else can you think of that fogs up (for example, inside a car when it's cold outside, the shower)?

Optional: Students draw or construct their own water cycle with art materials.

Resource 1 Why does the mirror fog up concept cartoon



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