Create A Rainstorm

Objective: This fun warm-up activity helps participants understand the water cycle. This lesson can promote discussion on the source of our drinking water.

Materials: People!

ACTIVITY SUMMARY:
This is an excellent ice breaking activity to use with students of all ages and any group size, as well as for beginning a professional development session.

PROCEDURE:
Bold indicates the action of the students. *Italics* indicate the script.

1. Pose the question: *Where do you think your drinking water comes from?* Some responses may be "rain," "snow," "reservoirs."

2. Introduce the activity: *As a group, right in this room, we are going to create a rainstorm. You will need to concentrate and use your imagination. We will make the rainstorm using our hands and feet, so make sure you have enough room to do so. Let's review the different things we will do.* (Go through each movement). *Now, watch my hands and as I change what they are doing, you follow and do the same thing.*

3. *Start to* **rub your palms together.** You can narrate the storm if you choose. *We are in the Catskill Mountains, over 125 miles away from New York City. It's summer, and a rainstorm is brewing. The wind is picking up, the leaves start to rustle, and a cloud covers the sun.*

4. **Snap your fingers.** *The raindrops are starting to fall, lightly at first and streams begin to fill and lakes form.*

5. **Clap with two fingers to palm.** *The rain is starting to fall a little harder.* Water is flowing quickly down the mountains.

6. **Clap.** *The storm is getting more intense. The raindrops are falling harder and heavier. Rivers and streams swell. Reservoirs, large bodies of water, built to hold this rain and melting snow, fill with water.*

EVERYBODY

IN THE CLASSROOM

Skills:
Communication, Teamwork

Subject/Discipline:
Science, Expressive Arts

Science Standards:
Lead in to S1, S4

Time:
Part of 1 class meeting.

The Inside Track:
For more information on water education contact the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

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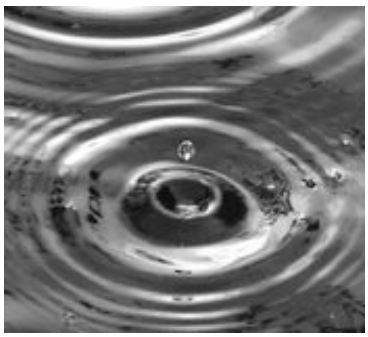

NOTE:
This can get noisy (in a good way)! Be sure to consider your location.

7. **Slap your lap and stamp your feet.** *The summer cloudburst is reaching its peak as the wind rushes through the trees and the rain comes heavy and fast.*

8. **Clap.** *It has been an intense cloudburst, but like many summer storms, it doesn't last long. The rain is starting to slack off and the wind is dying down.*

9. **Clap with two fingers to palm**.

10. **Snap fingers.** *Raindrops fall in the reservoir in smaller drops.*

11. **Rub palms together.** *The sun comes out from behind the clouds, the leaves are fresh and wet and green. Small streams and puddles rush over the sloping ground.* Whispering: *And our rainstorm is over.*

12. **Stop rubbing palms together.** Remain silent for a few moments.

EXTENSION:
Now that you have completed the activity, see the WHAT IS A WATERSHED? introduction section as well as the lessons "Mapping the Bronx River Watershed," "Enviroscape Model," and the "Long and Winding Road" to further the discussion on water and water issues in the Bronx River Watershed.

Have the class investigate the following questions:
Does anyone know where we get out drinking water? Is the Bronx River part of this journey?
What happens if we don't get enough rain or snow where reservoirs are located?
What happens when rain water falls on our streets in New York City? Where does it go?

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