**ACTIVITY: Precipitation and cloud formation**

**Activity idea**

In this activity, students watch a short slide show presentation explaining what precipitation is and how clouds form.

By the end of this activity, students should be able to:

* explain what precipitation is and how water vapour is transported and concentrated in the atmosphere
* describe how water appears as different phases in the air – vapour, droplets and ice particles
* explain that clouds are mixtures of droplets and ice particles and that this mixture changes with temperature.

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**Introduction/background**

Precipitation is an important part of the water cycle. This slide show presentation explains what precipitation is and the process involved. It also discusses the phases of water in the air before going on to discuss cloud formation.

**What you need**

* Access to the article [Water and weather](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/725-water-and-weather)
* Access to the slide show [Precipitation and clouds](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/embeds/100-precipitation-and-clouds). (Also accessible on the [activity page](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/802-precipitation-and-cloud-formation).)
* Access to the interactive [Dynamic and complex: the global water cycle](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/image_maps/36-dynamic-and-complex-the-global-water-cycle)
* Interactive whiteboard, projector or other means of displaying the slide show

**What to do**

1. Review the article [Water and weather](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/725-water-and-weather) so that students are familiar with concepts of evaporation, condensation and precipitation and the factors that affect the rates at which these occur.
2. View the [Precipitation and clouds](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/802-precipitation-and-cloud-formation) slide show.
3. Discuss the slides as a class. The slides are a mixture of text and images. Encourage students to explain why they think some of the images have been included in the slide show.

**Extension idea**

Direct students to the interactive [Dynamic and complex: the global water cycle](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/image_maps/36-dynamic-and-complex-the-global-water-cycle) and ask them to make links between the images in the slide show with the various sections of the water cycle.