

Water & Transformation

Length	60-80 minutes
Materials Required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Image of water cycle ● “Water” poem by Ralph Waldo Emerson (provided below) ● “I am water” poem (provided at the end of the lesson)
Lesson Focus	<p>Awareness, Education, and Community</p> <p>To deepen writers’ awareness of the water cycle, their own relationship to water, and to think about the concept of transformation via the transformative nature of water.</p>
Learning Goals - Writing	Practice experimenting with written genres and collaborative revision. Participate in informal responses to peers’ writing.
Learning Goals - Water	Learn about the water cycle, its fluidity, and the way it changes and transforms. Think about personal transformations and the way we, as people, also change forms. Learn about the phase changes of water.
Target Audience	All ages.
Warm-Up Writing (10 mins)	Imagine an icicle forming or melting. What is that change all about? Try writing about a moment when you felt yourself transform by using some water terms: ice, liquid, gas. (e.g. life as water forms: feeling heavy like ice, light as gas or feeling out of control like gas and then grounded like ice). Write for 7 minutes and then invite writers to share.
Writing Prompt #1 (15-20 mins)	<p>Introduce the natural water cycle and how water moves and changes in our environment (use image below) (5-7 mins).</p> <p>Choose two points in the water cycle and imagine one writing to the other about themselves and what they wonder about the other. For example, a raindrop might write to steam as it falls from the sky toward a forest fire. What might different parts of the cycle have to say to one another? Write for 10</p>

	<p>minutes and then invite writers to share their drafts and ideas (10-15 mins).</p>
<p>Writing Prompt #2 (20 mins)</p>	<p>Read “I am water” by Anchormysoul14 as a group. Give each writer a sticky note and have them finish this line, “I want to be like water...” at least twice. Read them out loud. Have writers post their notes on a board or wall and have one or two writers help organize the poem into different configurations (e.g. phases of water (gas, solid, liquid) or shortest to longest, etc.). Select the final form and read aloud.</p> <p>Consider taking photos of the various drafts. Record the final version for circulation to the group and potentially for publication.</p>
<p>Writing Prompt #3 (15 mins)</p>	<p>Consider the power of water to transform after reading “Water” by Ralph Waldo Emerson</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">The water understands Civilization well; It wets my foot, but prettily, It chills my life, but wittily, It is not disconcerted, It is not broken-hearted: Well used, it decketh joy, Adorneth, doubleth joy: Ill used, it will destroy, In perfect time and measure With a face of golden pleasure Elegantly destroy.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Source: Poets of the English Language (Viking Press, 1950)</p> <p>Try writing for 15 minutes about Emerson’s idea of water and elegant destruction (think about the depths of the Grand Canyon or force of Niagara Falls).</p>
<p>Wrap-Up & Keep Writing</p>	<p>Wrap-up: Have a brief discussion with writers about how water transforms and comparisons they can make to their own lives.</p>

	<p>Keep Writing: Try applying a different part of the water cycle to your own life. You as frozen, you as fluid, you as mist or suspended in air. See what happens and bring your writing to share next time.</p>
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I am Water by Anchormysoul14 (2015)

Source: <https://powerpoetry.org/poems/i-am-water-1>

I want to be like water,
flowing freely with the current.

I want to be like water,
infiltrating Life into the seeds buried deep.

I want to be like water,
forcefully falling down then peacefully swaying to the tune of the serenity sea.

I want to be like water,
rushing and relaxing when need be.

I want to be like water,
making its way through the cracks even when the barrier's concrete.

I want to be like water,
riding with the tide and tumbling over rocks.

I want to be like water,
quenching the thirst of the dryest areas on earth.

I want to be like water,
rippling the influence of the Rock's first splash.

I want to be like water,
reflecting the beauty of a sunset that ignites every eye.

I want to be water,
resourceful for all.

I want to be water,
cleansing out impurities from within.

I want to be water,
sometimes uncontrollable sometimes in control.

I want to be like water,

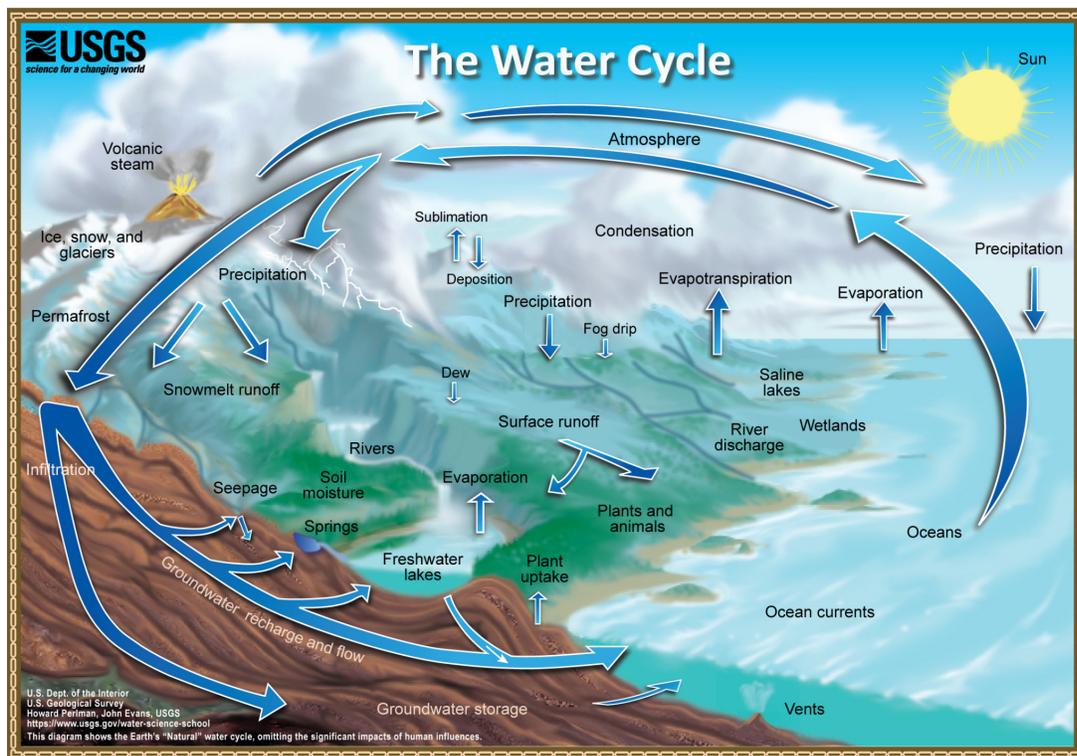
connecting the world from distances too far.

I want to be like water,
flowing wherever You are.

I want to be like water,
transforming in motion yet ever the same.

I am like water.
I am free.
I am love.
I am,
Life

I ever flow....



source:

<https://d9-wret.s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets/palladium/production/s3fs-public/thumbnails/image/water-cycle-natural.jpg>

This lesson plan is free to download and use. The Writing Water Curriculum Project (WWCP) was developed in 2021-2022 with support from The Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University and in collaboration with interns at the Community Literacy Center. Special thanks to Emily Iskin, our graduate research assistant and expert in fluvial geomorphology, who provided essential consultation in water science and created original water-inspired art for the WWCP webpage.
