

# Why does it rain?

Rain comes from clouds, which are themselves made up of lots and lots of tiny droplets of water that are holding on to each other.

When the sun shines on the earth, it causes water to evaporate. The water can come from lakes, oceans, seas and even from your pool outside. As this water evaporates it rises to the atmosphere. When it reaches an altitude (height) where the temperature is very low, it condenses to form clouds. When heavy enough, these clouds release water droplets which fall back to the earth as rain or hail.

## Experiment:

**Note:** Ask an adult to help you with this activity

**What You Need:** saucepan    ice cubes  
water    oven mitt

### Directions:

1. Ask an adult to boil some water in a saucepan.
2. Using oven mitts to protect your hands, hold a tray of ice above the steam.
3. Drops will begin to fall like rain from the tray.

### Why does this happen?

The cold surface of the ice-cube tray cools the steam from the boiling water, changing it back into water in the form of rain drops.

