

ELF NOTES

Environmental Learning for the Future - Vermont Institute of Natural Science

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WATER MUSIC

Have you ever heard water sing? Water can be quite musical. Find a place to listen as it flows downstream over rocks, drips down from a high ledge, spills off a roof, or rolls over in waves and splashes up along a shoreline.

Water flowing under ice produces an amazing range of notes. Frozen water on a pond talks with creaks, pops and groans as temperatures change.

Take some old metal pots, pot lids, pie plates, and bowls outside. Get a garbage can and lid, some plastic flowerpots and jugs, and anything else that will thump or rattle when water hits it. Put the "instruments" under dripping or flowing water and see what tunes you hear.

Fill containers, try some glass jars, with water and tap them with a stick or spoon. If you change the level of water in a container it will produce a different note.

EARTH AND SKY

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

Earth's water, a finite resource, is continually changing form as it circulates from land or oceans and lakes to the air and back again in a never ending cycle.

Water from the earth's atmosphere reaches the earth by precipitation, or by condensation. Water from the earth's surface reaches the atmosphere through the processes of evaporation, transpiration and respiration. The particular properties of water make this movement of water molecules possible.

Animals and plants depend on water for survival, ingesting it in the liquids they drink or absorb.

Although water covers three-quarters of the earth's surface, only a small percentage of the supply is fresh water.

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