

## Lesson 3

# How Does Water Play With Us?

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**Key Idea** Water is a playmate as well as a helper.

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**Activity** Students will go on a walk and discuss how water is used for recreation.

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**Materials** None.

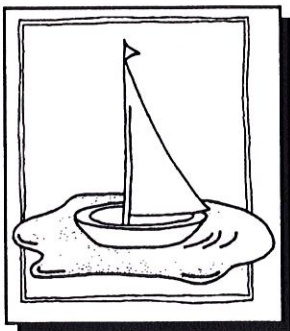
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### Procedure

**1** Take the children on a short walk around the school grounds or the neighborhood. Have them think about how plants need water. For example, some plants need little water to survive (cactus) while others need water in great quantities (lawns).

**2** On return, ask:

- What did you see that needs a lot of water to grow and *look good*? (some trees, lawn, etc.)
- What did you see that needs little water? (cactus) How do plants get water? (sprinklers, hoses, rain)
- What are other ways you like water or use it for play? (swimming, picnicking, fishing, boating, etc.)
- How does water come to some of your favorite water play places? (stream, pipe, reservoir)
- What are some ways you know water is a fun friend? (It feels good; it is pretty; it cools you.)
- How does it play with you? (It cools you on hot days; it floats you or your boat; it hides fish when you go fishing.)



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## Extension

Help the students understand that water is good to use by providing cool shade. Ask: Why does it feel good to be under a tree on a hot day?

Locate the biggest tree on your playground. Have the children walk a wide circle around it along the "drip line." This invisible line is where the outer canopy of tree leaves sheds rain. Tree roots generally reach as far as the drip line and act like a huge sponge to soak up rain. On a hot day, a big tree may evaporate or release over a hundred gallons of water into the air. Ask children to think why on hot days it is so nice to sit under a big tree or on a green lawn. (They both evaporate water which cools the air.)