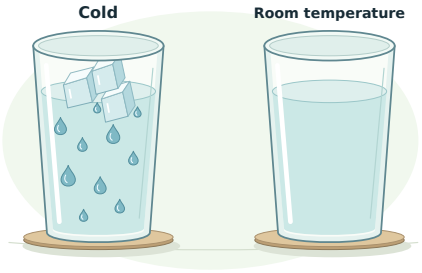
CURIOUS SCIENCE

HAMSTER LESSON #0000018

## Notice water from air.

Find condensation on a cold cup.




**Water from air forms drops on the cold outside surface.**

**TRY IT TODAY**

Compare a cold cup with a room-temperature cup.



1. ❓ Where do the drops on the outside of a cold cup come from?
2. 🙋 Water vapor in the surrounding air can cool and become liquid drops on the cold surface. This change from gas to liquid is condensation; the water has not passed through the cup.
3. ⏳ In 1803, Luke Howard published a way to classify clouds. His careful observations helped people describe the changing sky with shared names still used today.
4. 💡 Dry the outside of a cup of ice water. Leave it on a tray without spilling. New drops may form outside even though the cup has no holes.
5. 🔍 Water vapor is invisible. The drops we see are liquid water, not visible gas. Ice melting inside the cup is a different change: solid water becomes liquid.
6. 🌎 Condensation helps form dew and cloud droplets. A cup on a table can introduce us to changes of state that also matter in the water cycle.
7. 🎯 With an adult, compare matching cups of ice water and room-temperature water. Dry their outsides and observe for fifteen minutes. Draw where drops appear and explain where that water came from.

**References** · USGS: Condensation and the water cycle · USGS: Water-cycle vocabulary · NOAA: Condensation on a cold cup · American Chemical Society: Condensation Station · Met Office: Luke Howard’s 1803 cloud classification · Met Office: What clouds are made of
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