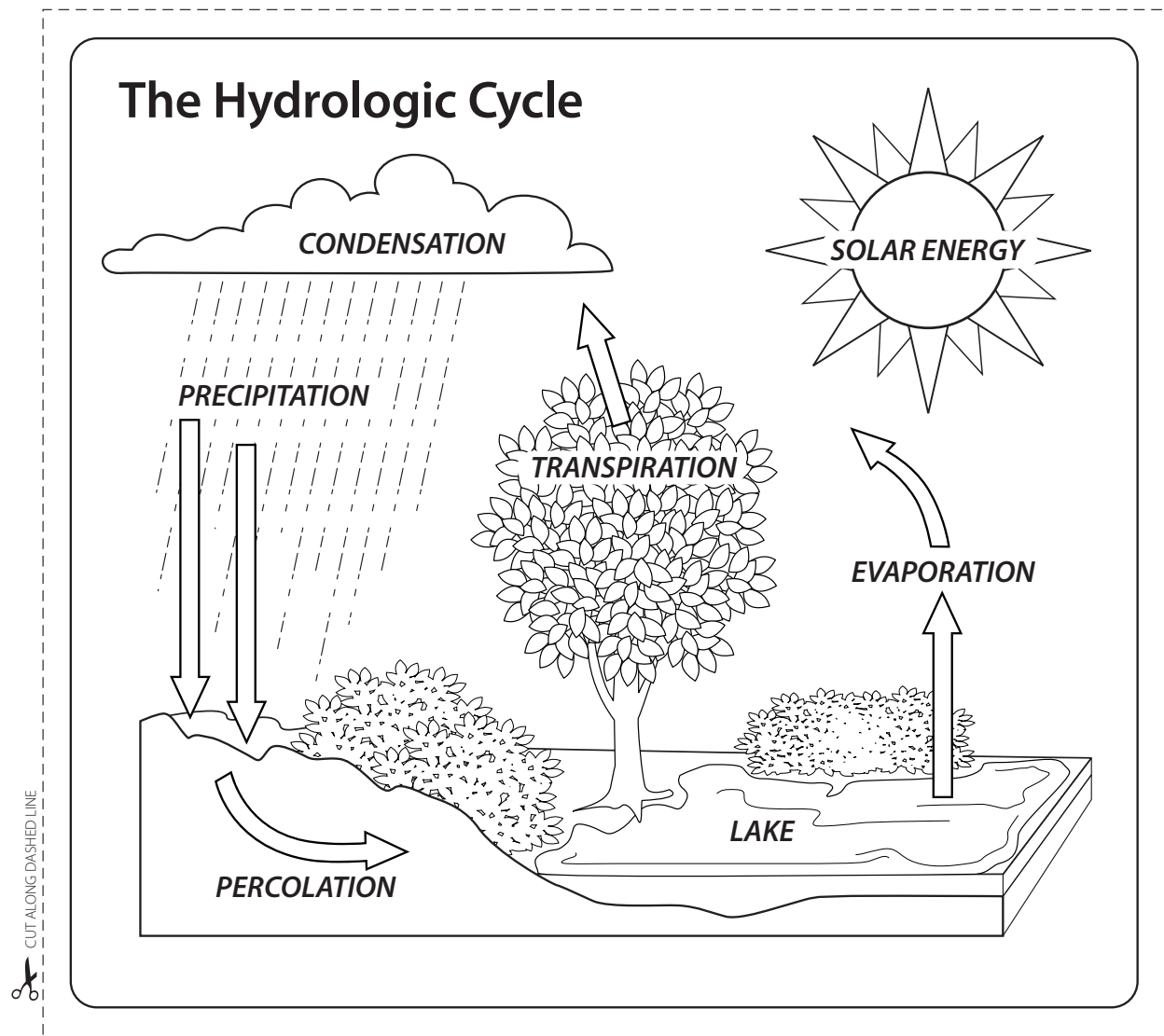


Water in Action: Capture the Water Cycle in a Bag

You have learned that water takes several paths as it moves through the environment. In this activity, you will capture the water cycle in a bag. The illustration below shows the hydrologic cycle in action and will be used in the project described on the next page.



Water in Action: *Capture the Water Cycle in a Bag* (page 2)

Parts of the Hydrologic Cycle

- evaporation** — vapor created when the sun heats water in lakes, streams, rivers, oceans, puddles, etc.
- transpiration** — vapor created when plants and trees give off moisture
- condensation** — tiny droplets of water formed when water vapor rises into the air and cools
- precipitation** — moisture released from clouds in the form of rain, snow, hail, etc.
- percolation** — the downward movement of water through the ground

MATERIALS

- illustration of hydrologic cycle
- colored markers
- tiny plants (optional)
- black permanent marker
- handful of soil
- scissors
- spray bottle of water
- plastic quart-size sealable bag
- handful of small pebbles and gravel

DIRECTIONS

1. Cut out the illustration of the hydrologic cycle and place it inside the bag.
2. Using a black permanent marker, trace the outline of the illustration onto the bag. Use colored markers to fill in the design as desired. Select a dark color to label the different parts of the cycle. When you have finished coloring, remove the picture from the bag.
3. Place a handful of small pebbles and gravel in the bottom of the bag to represent the aquifer.
4. Place a handful of soil on top of the pebbles and gravel.
5. Place a few tiny plants in the soil, if desired.
6. Gently spray water over the soil and rock mixture until it is moist.
7. Zip the bag shut and place it upright in an area that receives indirect sunlight.
8. After a few days, check to see if you have captured the water cycle!