

## Alternate FACTivity



### Time Needed

- 10 minutes
- 1 day to wait
- 10 minutes for discussion

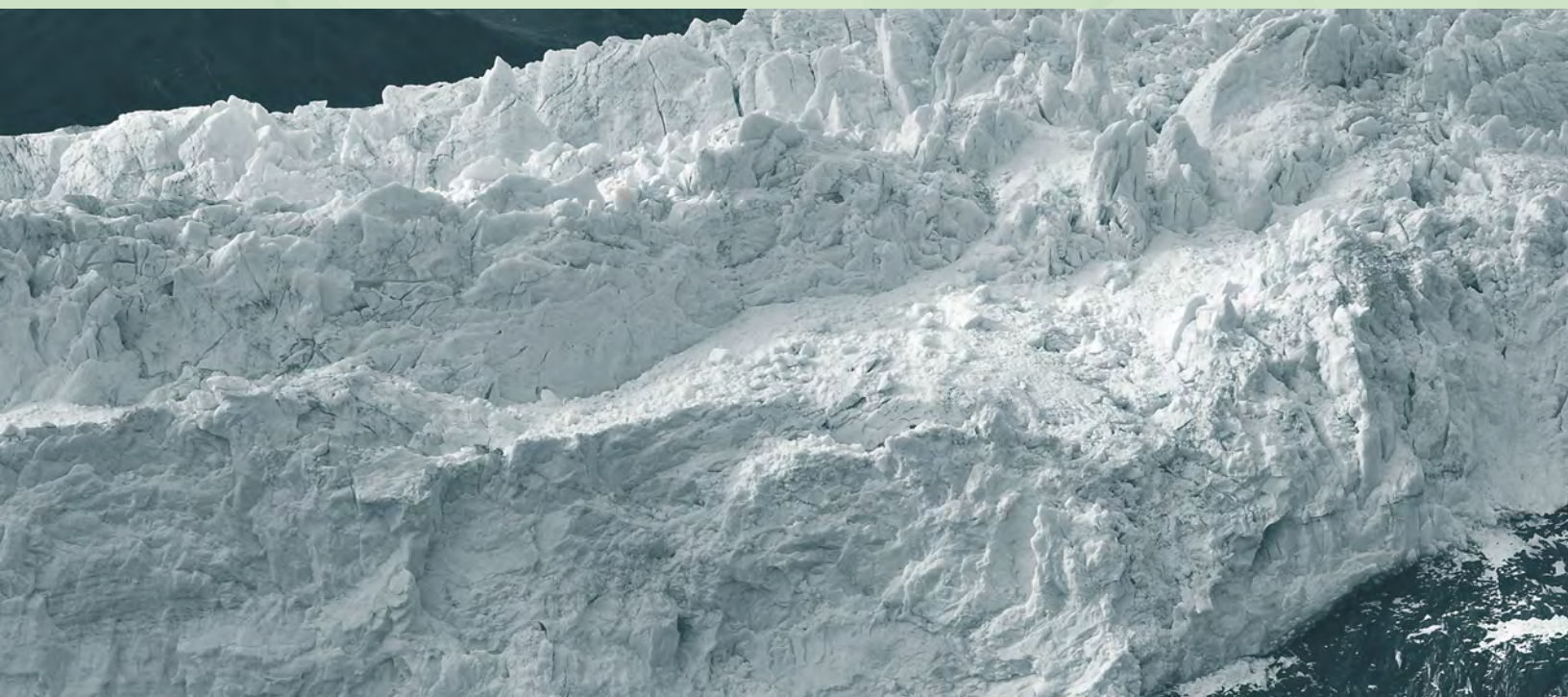
### Materials

- Potted houseplant with a hole in the bottom
- Saucer
- Small plastic bag, such as a lunch bag with a zip top.
- Water
- Paper
- Pencil

The purpose of this FACTivity is to demonstrate how houseplants use water and to compare this process with an outdoor plant's use of soil water.

### Methods

1. Place the plastic bag on one or more of the plant's leaves and zip the bag as snug as possible without hurting the plant.
  2. Water the plant thoroughly until some water flows into the saucer.
  3. Empty the saucer.
  4. Place the plant in a sunny window.
  5. Wait 24 hours.
  6. Observe the plastic bag. You may carefully remove the bag, being careful not to spill its contents.
  7. Write down what you observed about the plastic bag.
- Compare the potted plant with a plant outside. Think about what you learned in this article about underground water.
8. What does the saucer water represent?
  9. What does the water inside the pot represent?
  10. What do the bag's contents show you about the plant?
  11. Does this FACTivity support this article's findings about soil water? Why or why not?



How does this scene relate to the water cycle?

## Natural Inquirer Connections

You may want to reference these *Natural Inquirer* articles for additional information and FACTivities:

- For more on chemistry and energy flow, read “Don’t Litter the Stream” in the Hawai‘i-Pacific Islands edition of *Natural Inquirer*.
- For more on chemistry in freshwater, read “Sediment-al Journey” on page 58 and “Caribbean Cruise” on page 41 in this *Natural Inquirer* edition.
- For more information on surface water, see “Green Means Clean” on page 7 in this *Natural Inquirer* edition.

These articles, along with others, can be found at <http://www.naturalinquirer.org/all-issues.html>.

## Web Resources

**U.S. Geological Survey: Groundwater**  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/earthgw.html>

**U.S. Geological Survey: Infiltration**  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycleinfiltration.html>

**Kings River Experimental Watersheds**  
<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/topics/water/kingsriver/>

**U.S. Geological Survey: Aquifers**  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/earthgwaquifer.html>

**U.S. Geological Survey: Water Basics**  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/mwater.html>

**U.S. Geological Survey: Rivers Contain Groundwater**  
<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/rivers-contain-groundwater.html>

**U.S. Geological Survey Groundwater Map**  
[http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs\\_top\\_story/the-quality-of-the-nations-groundwater/](http://www.usgs.gov/blogs/features/usgs_top_story/the-quality-of-the-nations-groundwater/)

If you are a trained Project Learning Tree educator, you may use “Rain Reasons” and “Water Wonders” as additional resources.

