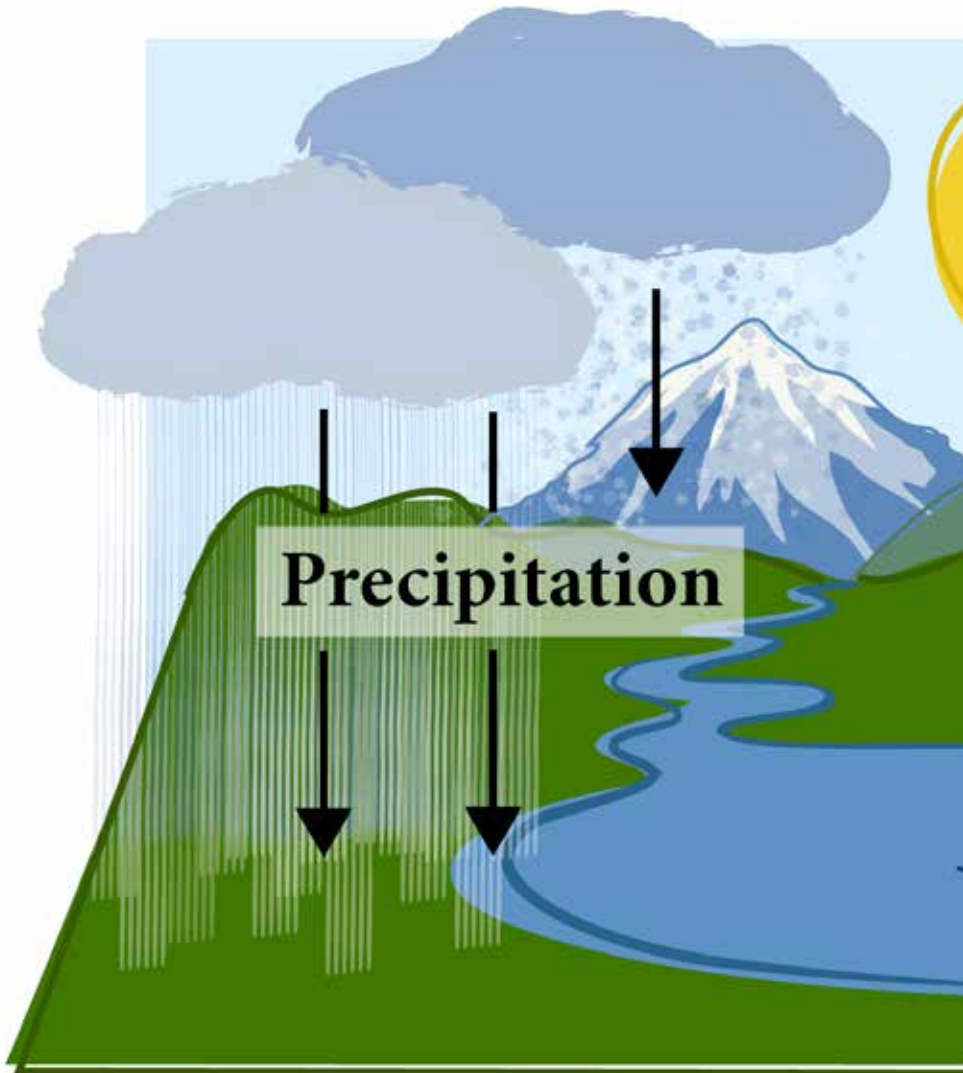


This is Ms. Stephanie Laseter.



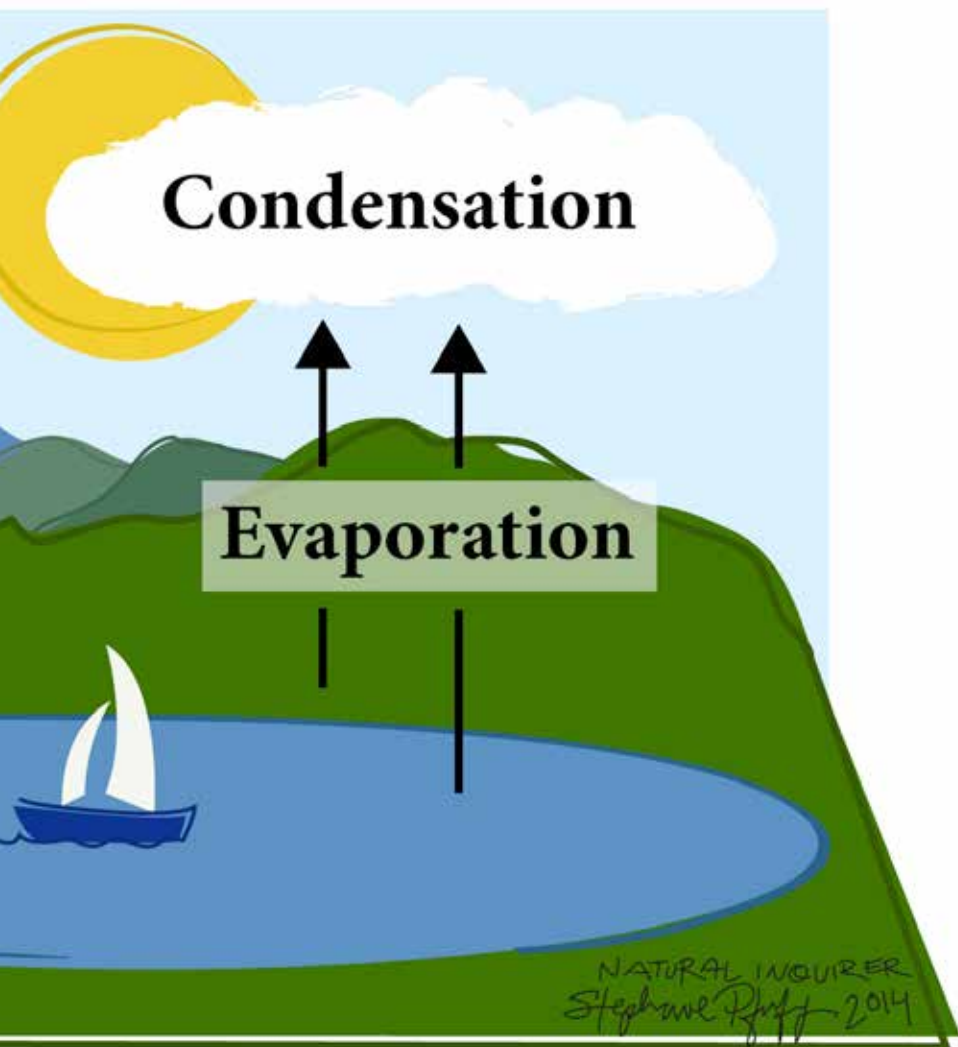
Photo: Stephanie Laseter, Forest Service

Ms. Laseter is a scientist who studies water.



The water cycle shows how water falls to Earth and **evaporates** back to the **atmosphere**.

She studies how water moves on **Earth**.



Ms. Laseter loved being outside when she was young. When she was in 6th grade, she was in a science fair. She began to love science.



Photo: Babs McDonald

This high school student is in a science fair.

Ms. Laseter pays attention to details. She also enjoys **solving** problems.

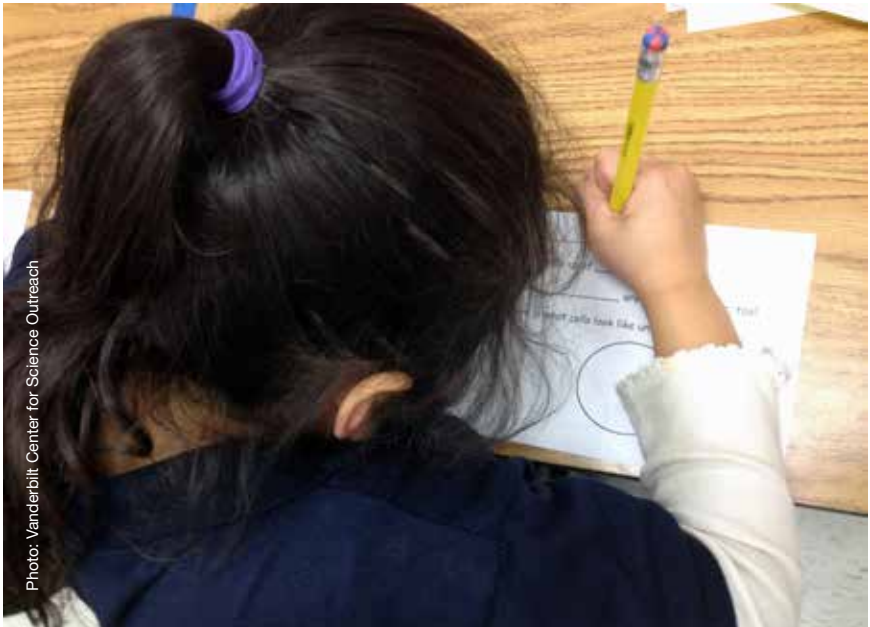


Photo: Vanderbilt Center for Science Outreach

Like Ms. Laseter, this student enjoys solving problems.

Ms. Laseter likes to ask questions about our world.



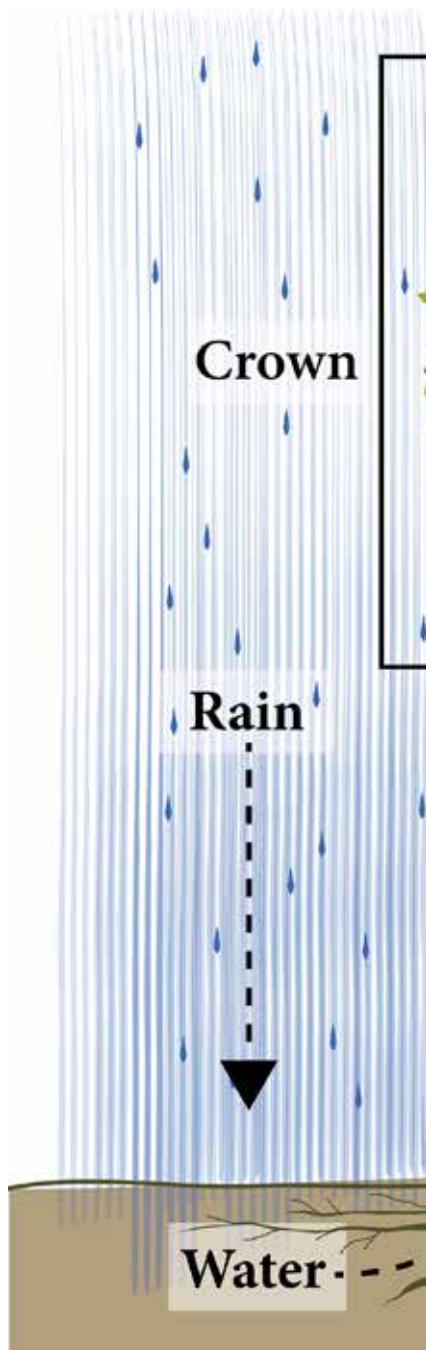
Photo: Stephanie Laseter, Forest Service

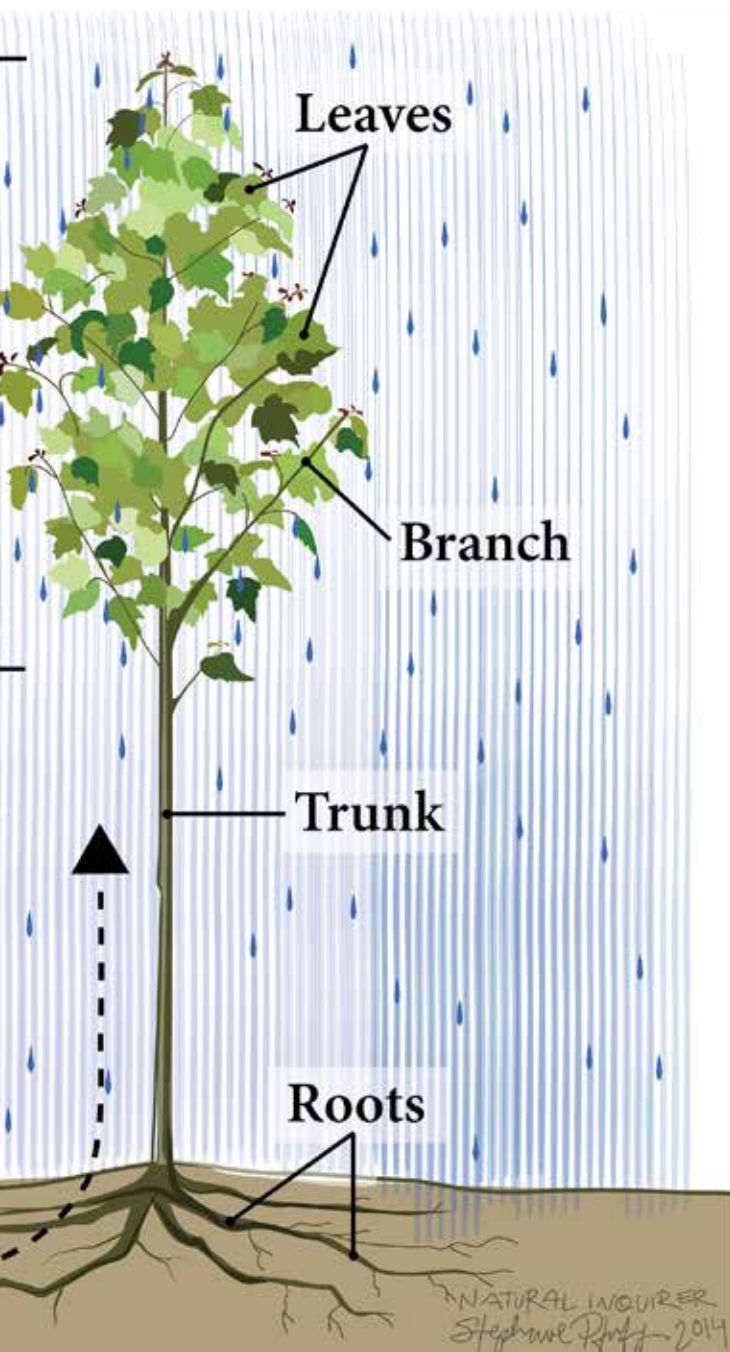
Ms. Laseter asked a question about **forests** and **streams**.



Photo: James Holland

She knew that forests need water to **survive**.





She also knew that streams provide water for forests.



Rain falls to Earth and gathers in streams
and other bodies of water.



Photo: Babs McDonald

Ms. Laseter asked, “How does rainfall **affect** forests and streams over time?”



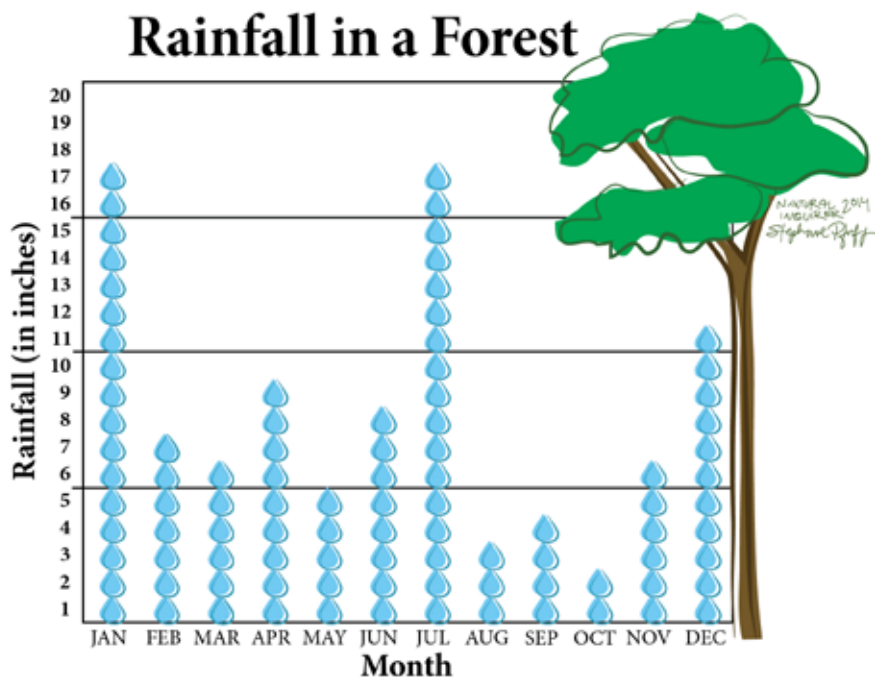
Photo: Forest Service

Ms. Laseter used a rain gauge to help her answer her question. A rain gauge measures how much rain, or **precipitation**, falls in an area.



Photo: Babas McDonald

Ms. Laseter **observed** that rain **patterns** are changing over time. She discovered that changing rain patterns can affect forests and streams.



Scientists ask and answer questions about the patterns that they observe. What is one pattern that you have observed in the world? What is one question that you have about this pattern?



When more rain or less rain falls, the forest can be affected. What change do you see in this forest?



Critical Thinking Questions:



- The trees in a forest need water to survive. What other things do trees need to survive?
- Ms. Laseter observed that rain patterns are changing over time. If less rain falls each year, what do you think might happen to trees?
 - What do you think would happen to the streams?
- Ms. Laseter likes to ask questions. Why do you think it is important to ask questions?

Glossary:

atmosphere (**at**-mə-sfır): Air that surrounds Earth.

affect (a-**fekt**): To make something or someone different.

Earth (**ə**rth): The planet on which we live.

evaporate (i-**və**-pə-rāt): To give off moisture.

forest (**fôr**-əst): A very large area of trees.

observe (əb-**zərv**): To watch something.

pattern (**pa**-tərn): Something that happens in a regular and repeated way.

precipitation (pri-**si**-pə-**tā**-shən): Water or the amount of water that falls to Earth as hail, mist, rain, sleet, or snow.

solve (**sôlv**): To find the correct answer to.

survive (sər-**vīv**): To remain alive.

provide (prə-**vīd**): To supply something that is useful or needed.

stream (**strēm**): A body of running water (as a river or brook) flowing on Earth.

