

Water cycle: compare incoming and outgoing flows

Distinguish a water store from a flow and interpret the model's net-change reading.

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Use how much arrives for inflow and how much leaves for outflow.
2. Set the values in each row, then record Net change and Balance.

Inflow	Outflow	Net change	Balance
8	8		
16	8		
4	8		

1. Name two water stores and two processes.
2. Explain the sign of each net-change value.
3. Why is this not a real rainfall or reservoir forecast?

Teacher notes and answers

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Possible stores: ocean, clouds, rivers, ice. Processes: evaporation, condensation, precipitation, runoff.

Net change: 0, +8, -4. Only the first row is labelled in balance; the other two are shifting.

The model uses simplified stores and relative flows. Its animation is not a measured whole-system water budget.

Teaching notes

Keep arithmetic separate from the scientific explanation. Do not assign sunlight or humidity controls that this model does not have.

Open the matching resource

<https://kiwibee.io/en/simulations/the-water-cycle-simulation>

Use the student page separately from this answer section. Model outputs are illustrative and depend on the stated settings.