The Wonders of Water

One of the most hopeful sights in the world is of the sun peaking out of the clouds after a summer storm. On the ground there are glimmering raindrops everywhere. The air smells fresh and clean for a bit. Without these raindrops, plants would not thrive and neither would we. Learn a bit about the wonders of water in this edition of Kid Quest, which is best done on a walk or in your yard just after it rains.

Try This

Try searching for a rainbow. If you see the sun come out just after a storm or during a rain shower, head outside immediately. This is the best time to see a rainbow. Keep your back to the sun, face the rain and look up in the sky. To see a rainbow, light has to be reflected, refracted and dispersed in raindrops in just the right way, making them pretty magical.
KID QUEST

CLOUDS
Look at the clouds. They play an important role in the water cycle by holding water that has evaporated in the atmosphere. When the clouds are too full of water, it rains. Can you find a comfortable spot to look at the clouds for a bit? Do you see any interesting shapes or patterns?

Write the shapes or patterns you see in the clouds on the back of this sheet.

SNAILS
The best time to see a snail is after it rains. Snails love moisture. When it is not wet outside, you might find them hiding under empty plant pots, rocks or woodpiles. Can you find a snail in your yard? If you don’t see one, try to find another interesting moisture-loving creature, such as an earthworm or a salamander.

Write the creatures that you find on the back of this sheet.

SEEDLINGS
A seedling is a young plant newly germinated from a seed. For seedlings to grow, they need soil, light and water. Seedlings tend to spring up just after a nice rain. Search for seedlings in your yard. If you find any that you consider to be weeds, pull them up. Do they still have the seed attached? Study the roots.

Describe the root of a weed seedling on the back of this sheet.

COLORS
Have you ever noticed that colors are often more vibrant just after a storm? The sun’s light is diffused through the atmosphere instead of shining down like a big spotlight. Shadows and reflections are softened in these magical moments. Do you see a difference in colors on a sunny day and a cloudy day?

Write your favorite colors you see in your yard on the back of this sheet.

DEW
Dew drops form on cool surfaces at night and glisten in the morning sunlight. Sometimes dew forms on spider webs, making them easier to admire. If you are up for a spider web hunt, you can achieve the same affect, even if it is not a wet outside. Gently spray or sprinkle water on a web to see amazing designs.

Describe a web design on the back of this sheet.

MUSHROOMS
Mushrooms pop up after it rains because they need moisture to emerge. They have been waiting underground for the right moment to appear. Mushrooms, also known as fungi, do not have roots. Instead, they form a network of thin, white fibers, called mycelium, that absorbs nutrients from soil and logs.

Write how many mushrooms you find on the back of this sheet.