

Into thin air

Liquid water in contact with air changes to an invisible gas called WATER VAPOUR. This process is called EVAPORATION.

N.B. THIS IS NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH STEAM WHICH IS TINY, VISIBLE DROPLETS OF WATER PRODUCED FROM HEATING WATER.

Children can be encouraged to suggest a number of places around the classroom where evaporation will take place. They can predict which place will be best and hypothesise as to the reasons for their choice.

COMMUNICATING TO OTHERS

The children could make a booklet with drawings explaining what they did and what they found out.

EXTENSIONS

Does the temperature of the water affect the rate of evaporation?

The children could also change the independent variable (the container) keeping the control variables (amount of water, position of container and temperature) the same to see if the container affects the rate of evaporation.

MATERIALS

A number of containers (some identical for fair testing).

A variety of safe liquids including water.

A variety of fabrics.

 **The children should be advised not to drink any of the liquids.**

