A Storm Front

Always be sure to get an adult's permission and help before conducting this science experiment!

Materials

- Large sponge
- Bucket
- Water
- Section of sidewalk or driveway that can get wet

Procedure

1. Fill the bucket 1/2 full of water.

2. Place the bucket at one of the sidewalk/driveway. Dunk the sponge into the bucket, making sure to saturate it with water.

3. Remove the wet sponge from the bucket. Begin walking down the sidewalk/driveway and put a constant pressure on the sponge. Be sure to observe what happens to both the water and the sponge as you walk.

4. Once the sponge is out of water stop and return to the bucket.

5. Try repeating this with various amounts of water soaked into the sponge.

What Did You Learn?

The wet sponge is similar to a saturated air mass that is traveling through the area. Did you notice how heavy the sponge was when full of water? Saturated air masses are heavy too, and once they run into an obstacle, they need to lose some of that weight to continue on. Did you notice how the sponge got lighter as more water dripped from it? That dripping water is precipitation that comes from an air mass (it will be rain in the summer and snow in the winter). Did you also notice that the more water in the sponge, the easier it was to have it drip out?