



# Nature Detective

## Introduction

In the book *Pitter and Patter*, two drops of rain (*Pitter* and *Patter*) fall from a gray cloud and travel through the water cycle. Along the way they meet many different “characters” in a variety of habitats. In this activity, students learn more about each character, are introduced to new vocabulary terms, and become “nature detectives” drawing and/or writing about other critters in the habitat.

## Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book *Pitter and Patter*
- ◆ “Meet the Characters and Their Homes” handout, included in this pdf

### Common Core Standards (ELA K-3)

- ◆ Reading: Informational Text
  - Key Ideas and Details (K.1, 1.1, 2.1, 3.1)
  - Integration and Knowledge of Ideas (K.7, 1.7, 2.7, 3.7)
- ◆ Writing
  - Text Types and Purposes (K.3, 1.3, 2.3, 3.3)

## Procedure

1. Read aloud the story about *Pitter* and *Patter*.
2. Referring to the two pages titled “Explore More—For Kids,” follow *Pitter* and *Patter* through the water cycle beginning and ending with the gray cloud. Pay specific attention to the characters they meet along the way.
3. Using the handout, introduce habitats presented in the story (oak tree, stream, valley, wetland, meadow, soil, cave, river, ocean) and have students take turns reading about the characters.
4. Review the vocabulary terms, adding more explanation as needed.
5. Have students complete the “Nature Detective” section for each habitat. There are several options for how you can have them do this: students may work individually or in small groups, with each person/group doing one habitat. Or, you may cover one or two habitats a day. For older students, you may want to assign “Nature Detective” for homework.
6. No matter which format you choose, have students share their completed writing/illustrations with the

### Next Generation Science Standards (DCI K-3)

- ◆ PS1: Matter and Interactions
  - A: Structure and Properties of Matter,
  - B: Chemical Reactions
- ◆ ESS2: Earth’s Systems
  - C: The Roles of Water in the Earth’s Surface Processes
- ◆ LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes
  - A: Structure and Function
  - C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms
  - D: Information Processing
- ◆ LS2: Interactions, Energy, and Dynamics
  - A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

