

# THE AMAZING, DISAPPEARING HAND EXPERIMENT

When the sun shines on water, water slowly begins to disappear. When this happens, it is called **evaporation** (ee-vap-uh-REY-shun).

Evaporation happens when the sun takes the water and turns it into vapor. Try this experiment so you can see evaporation for yourself.

**You will need:** A bowl of water  
A sunny sidewalk  
A shady sidewalk

## 1. SUNNY SIDEWALK

Dip your hand in the bowl of water and make a handprint on a **sunny sidewalk**. Count how long it takes to disappear. Write the number that tells how long your handprint lasted.

My handprint lasted

\_\_\_\_\_ seconds.

## 2. SHADY SIDEWALK

Now go to a **shady sidewalk**. Dip your hand in water and make a handprint there. Count how long it takes to disappear. Write the number that tells how long your handprint lasted.

My handprint lasted

\_\_\_\_\_ seconds.



**Discover:** Does one handprint last longer than the other? If so, why do you think that happened?

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**Free school tours:** The Springs Preserve offers free, interactive tours for school groups year-round. Teachers, please call **822-7748** for details.

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**Desert Discovery** is a publication of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Learn more about water and your desert environment at our websites.

### Learn more

**Read:** “**Big Rain Coming**” by Katrina Germain. In this picture book, everyone and everything in the Australian outback waits for rain.

“**Down Comes the Rain**” by Franklyn Branley. Where does rain come from? Learn about the water cycle in this book.