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HOW CLOUDS FORM

They can come to form many shapes. They can change right before your eyes.

They will make the sky their canvas and create temporary works of art for us to

enjoy. Have you ever wondered how these up-in-the-air artworks come to be?

How do clouds get formed?

It will begin with the sun. The sun heats the earth, including its huge amount of water. Water is made up of molecules. A molecule is the tiniest bit of water possible. It is a bit of water so small that you will not be able to see one without a powerful microscope. As water warms, its molecules will become more active. They will have begun to move. The molecules move farther and farther apart as they warm up. If the water gets warm enough, some molecules will actually break away and rise into the air. This is known as evaporation. When water molecules get warm enough to rise into the air, they will have evaporated. They change from water in its liquid form to water vapor.

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PRACTICE TEXT (continued)

Although you cannot see evaporation happening, you will have seen the results. Have you ever noticed how puddles of water get smaller and smaller when the sun shines on them? Where is all that water going?

It's evaporating. It's getting warm enough for its molecules to rise into the air.

The molecules will continue to rise higher and higher into the air until they reach cooler air. Cool air will reverse the process. Now, instead of spreading apart, the water molecules get closer and closer together. They condense. They begin to turn back into liquid. If the air is cold enough, the water molecules will freeze and become ice, which is water in a solid form. As the water vapor condenses, clouds will have begun to form.

When we look at a cloud, we will see a collection of water molecules. Some molecules may be in a liquid form, and some may be cold enough to be ice.

As more molecules get added, the cloud will grow. When molecules begin to evaporate, the cloud will have shrunk. If the cloud has too many water droplets that are condensing into liquid, it will rain on the earth below.

So, the next time you notice less water in a puddle, think about the neat clouds those water molecules may create. The sun will give the sky the paint it needs to create those constantly changing works of art.

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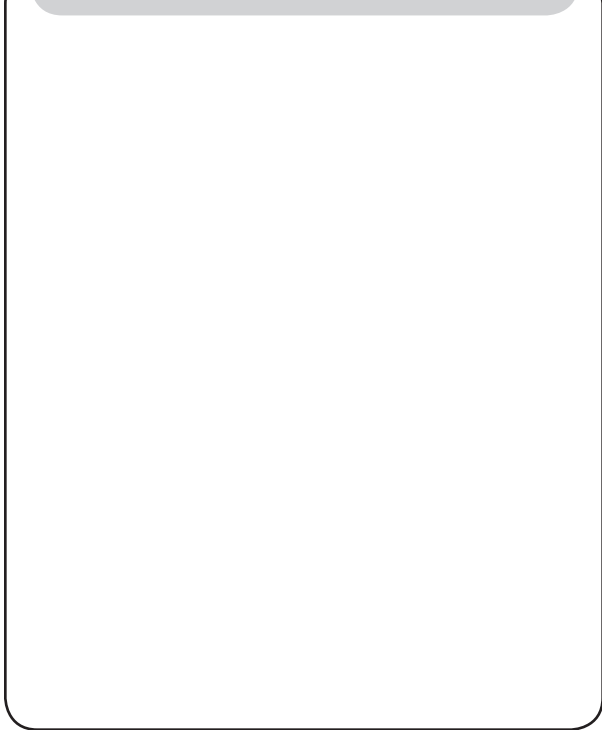
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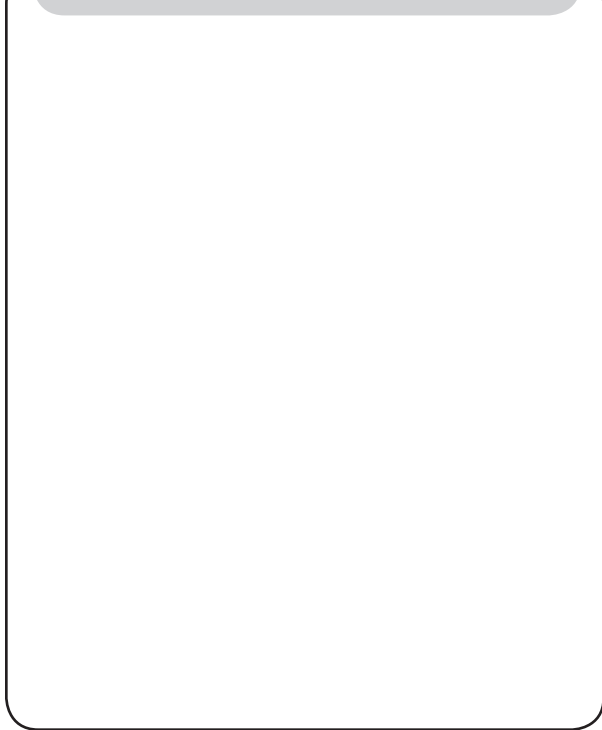
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MY WRITING: What's Working



MY QUESTIONS

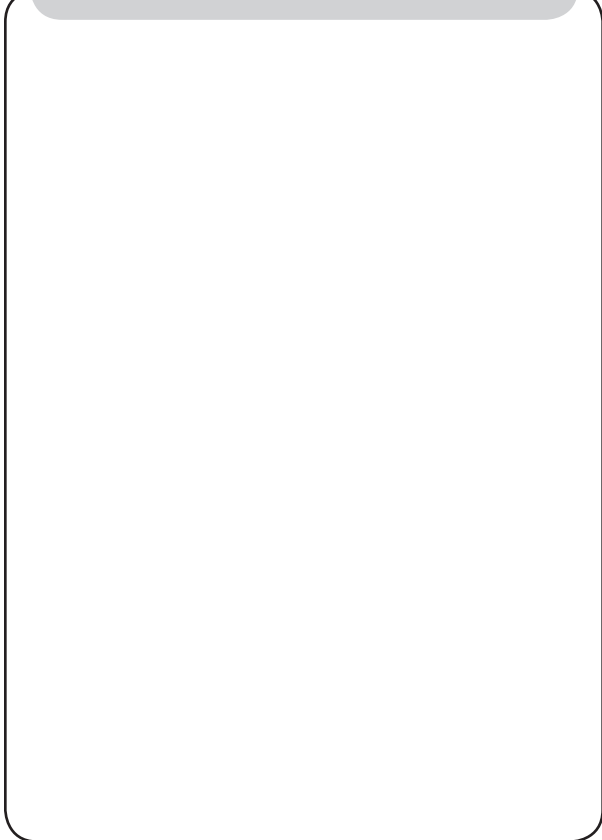


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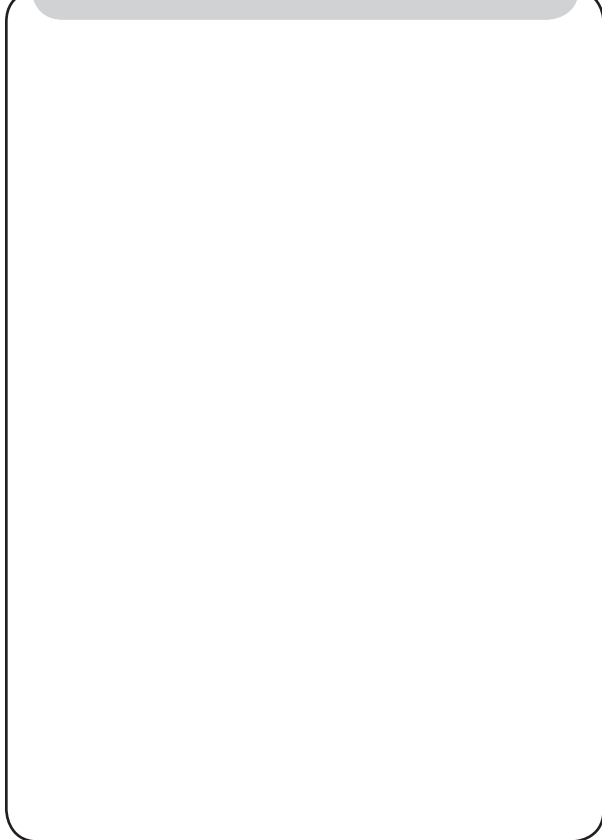
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