

Name _____



Raining Cotton Balls

Scientists learn that making predictions and finding the actual results teaches them important information and helps them make better predictions the next time.

Procedure:

1. Predict how many drops you think you will need to drop into the cotton ball “cloud” before it “rains.” Record your prediction using an ink pen.
2. Have one person hold the cotton ball over the paper plate and the other person will then use the dropper to add water.
3. Count the number of drops you need to add to the cotton ball before it begins dripping water or “rains.”
4. Record your actual number of drops.
5. Subtract to find what the difference is between your prediction and the actual count.
6. Repeat using a new cotton ball “cloud” twice more, following the same procedure and recording your results.

	Trial 1	Trial 2	Trial 3
Predict # of drops			
Actual # of drops			
Difference			

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Interpreting your results:

1. Were you able to make better predictions as you repeated the experiment?

Yes No

Explain why: _____

2. How did knowing the difference help you see if you made better prediction?

3. How is what you did by dropping water into the cotton ball “cloud” similar to what happens in a real cloud?

4. Explain what parts of the water cycle you are demonstrating in this experiment:

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