Name: _____ Teacher: _____ School: _____

Grade 3: Lesson 20 Working Water Cycle

One Well: The Story of Water on Earth
By: Rochelle Strauss

Recycling Water in the Well

The water you drank today may have rained down on the Amazon rainforest five years ago. A hundred years ago, it may have been steam escaping a teapot in India. Ten thousand years ago, it may have flowed in an underground river. A hundred thousand years ago, it may have been frozen solid in a glacier. And a hundred million years ago, it may have quenched the thirst of a dinosaur.

The amount of water on Earth doesn't change -- there's no more water now than when the dinosaurs walked the Earth. The same water just keeps going through a cycle over and over again. This constant movement of water is called the water cycle.

During the water cycle, water evaporates from oceans, lakes, rivers, ponds and puddles, even from plants and animals. It rises into the air as water vapor.

As water vapor rises, it cools into tiny water droplets. This is called condensation. These droplets form clouds. Gradually, clouds collect more and more water droplets. The average white cloud weighs about twice as much as a blue whale.

When water droplets get too heavy, they fall from the clouds in the form of hail, snow or rain. This precipitation returns to oceans, lakes, and rivers. It also seeps in the soil and down into the groundwater. Year after year, water continuously circulates through the water cycle.

How thirsty is a tree? On a summer's day, an average-sized birch tree can draw about 300L 980 U.S. gal.) Of water from the soil. That's almost enough water to fill two large bathtubs.

Many plants depend on water to disperse their seeds. A coconut (the seed of a palm tree) can spend weeks, months or even years drifting in the ocean before reading land and sprouting.

The plants you eat are mostly water. Tomatoes are about 95 percent water. Apples are about 85 percent water. Seeds are among the driest foods – they contain only 5 to 10 percent water.

Main Idea and Key Details Graphic Organizer
Main idea of the text:
Key details from the text that help me understand the main idea:

Independent Practice:
Reread the facts listed at the bottom of the text. Look for the bullets to mark the three facts. These are facts listed at the end of our text. Form an opinion of "WHY" the author added these fact. What did she want us to know?

Your assignment is to write an opinion essay. For opinion essay support, please return to the third grade unit on *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* found on PBS's Tennessee's At Home Learning Series.

Prompt: In your opinion, why did the author, Rochelle Strauss, add facts at the conclusion of the text?
In your essay, be sure to include:

- An introduction to your topic
- A clearly stated opinion with supporting reasons.
- An organizational structure that lists supporting reasons
- Linking words and phrases
- An effective concluding statement
- Proper sentence structure and grammar

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