OUR WATER COMES FROM TWO MAIN RIVERS

NIHÍ TÓ ÉÍ NAAKIGO TÓ NÍLÍNÍGÍÍ T'ÁÁ' ÍIYISÍÍ CHOO'ĮĮ

NUESTRA AGUA PROVIENE MAYORMENTE DE DOS RÍOS

Here in the Four Corners, we are part of the Colorado River Basin. Our main rivers are the San Juan and the Dolores. Water from snow, ice, and rain flows into our streams, creeks, and rivers, which then flow into the Colorado River.

The water cycle in this dry land begins in the fall and winter when snow falls high in the mountains. In spring, melting snow rushes into our rivers. In summer, thunderstorms can create flash floods. Under intense sun and heat, the snow melts away, the rivers become dry, and the water evaporates back into the air.

This cycle has gone on for millions of years. Over time, rivers and flash floods have carved deep canyons through the soft sandstones of the region. Climate forecasts now point to a warmer future, which means more frequent droughts and flash floods for all Four Corners life, including people, plants and animals.

MAKE IT RAIN!

Build mountains and valleys out of rubber "sand" then make it rain to see where the water flows!

Ready to play?

1. Use your hands to shape the rubber "sand." Build mountains and ridges, scoop out valleys and create canyons. Can you recreate some landmarks from your region?
2. Now, pretend your hands are rain clouds! Hold them over the rubber "sand" with your fingers spread wide to make it rain.
3. Watch how the water flows through your landscape. Where do rivers flow? Where do lakes form? How quickly does the water evaporate or drain away?

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