I wonder how water reaches us?

Wonder Project

Water Challenge

The Wonder Project is Engineering New Zealand's not-for-profit, free programme for schools, designed to inspire young Kiwis with science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

In Aotearoa, there's a huge skills shortfall in STEM. We simply don't have enough young people pursuing careers in these fields. STEM jobs pay well, are secure – and you don't always have to go to university. The Wonder Project aims to change this shortfall by showing young Kiwis they really can do anything.

The Wonder Project is a series of project-based hands-on programmes that knit seamlessly into the New Zealand school curriculum. They're designed to spark wonder and awe in young Kiwis from Year 5–13 and get them excited about a future STEM career.

engineering new zealand
te ao rangahau

SUPPORTED BY Beca Fulton Hogan GHD Foundation

Water Challenge

Ready, set, flow! Ākonga explore the journey of wai by constructing and testing a mini model of Aotearoa New Zealand's water network.

Your child's school has registered to take part in the Water Challenge this year. Over Term 3 they'll learn how STEM is used to collect, clean, connect and care for one of Earth's most precious taonga.

What your child will learn

Your child may bring home some weird and wonderful new kupu and concepts – so it's good for you to be familiar with them too!

The mauri of wai

In te ao Māori (the Māori world), wai (water), is considered to have its own mauri (lifeforce). The mauri of wai is a direct reflection of the health of the land, and the people. So, wai should be cared for and respected as a highly valued taonga, or treasure.

The water cycle

In the water cycle, wai is recycled through a series of processes across the atmosphere, and the Earth:

- **Precipitation:** wai falls to the Earth in the form of rain, snow, or hail
- **Collection:** wai collects in bodies of water, or seeps into the ground
- **Evaporation:** wai turns into water vapour
- **Transpiration:** plants release water vapour
- **Condensation:** water vapour rises into the atmosphere and cools down to form clouds

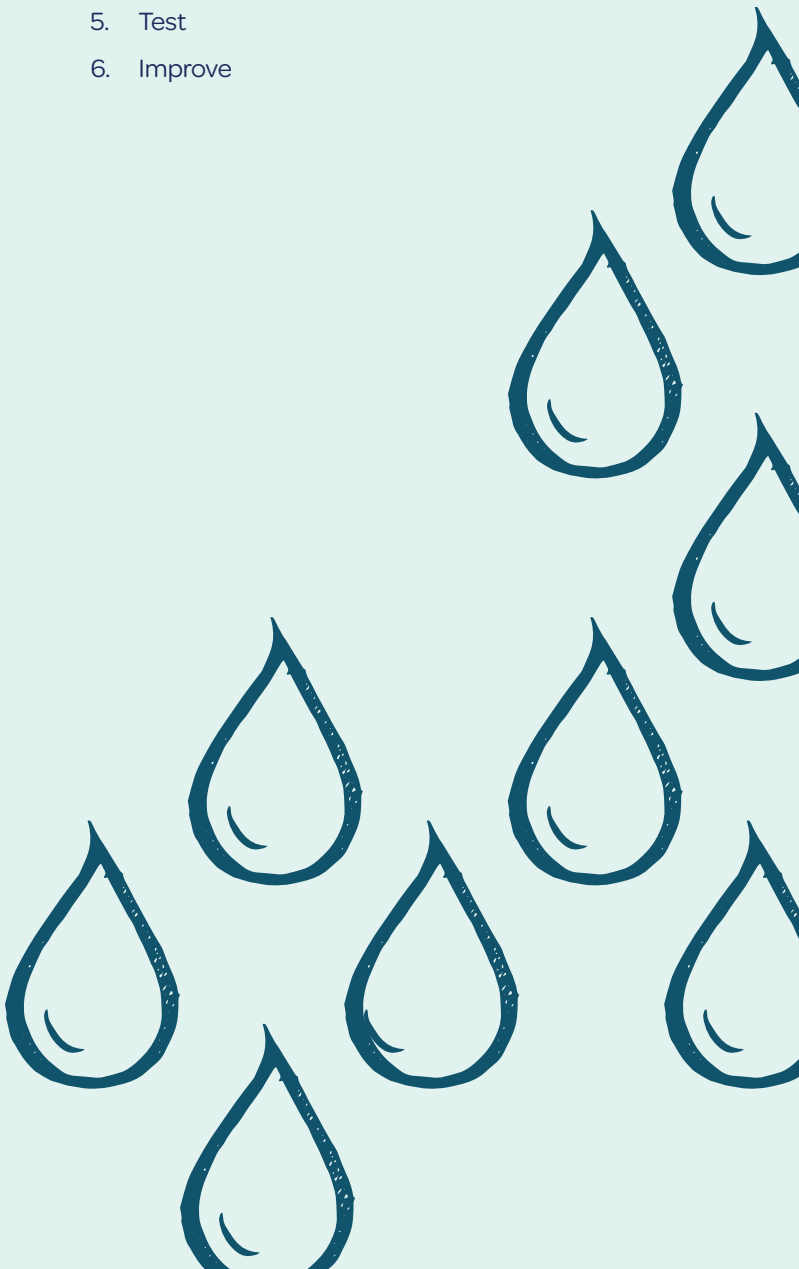
STEM design process

They'll learn how to think like a STEM superstar, using the STEM design process:

1. Ask
2. Imagine
3. Plan
4. Create
5. Test
6. Improve

What you can do to help

- Ask about their wai network and the mauri of wai
- Talk about new kupu and concepts they're learning
- Ignite curiosity with some simple experiments at home
- Add another book to your reading list with *The Awesome A–Z Of How Stuff Works* – order from **shop.wonderproject.nz**



Ignite your wonder today at
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