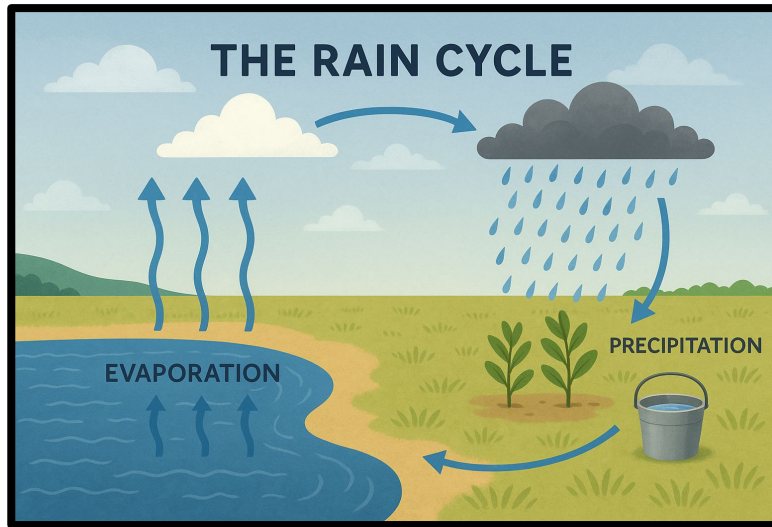


Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ai

"This nonfiction text teaches how rain forms. As you read, look for words with the 'ai' vowel team like 'rain' and 'pail'!"



How Rain Forms

Rain begins high in the sky.

The sun heats water from lakes and seas.

This water turns into gas and floats up.

The gas cools and turns into clouds.

When the clouds get heavy, drops fall—this is rain!

Rain helps plants grow and keeps the land fresh.

It can fill a pail or flood a plain.

Rain is a key part of the water cycle.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

rain

plain

pail

main

aids



Name: _____

How Rain Forms

1. What causes rain to fall?

- A. Wind and sun
- B. Clouds turning to snow
- C. Heavy clouds filled with water
- D. Leaves and trees rising

2. Why is rain important?

- A. It makes clouds float
- B. It helps plants grow
- C. It heats the land
- D. It keeps gas warm

3. Fill in the blank:

Rain is a key part of the water _____.

4. What steps happen before rain begins to fall?

5. How does rain help nature and the land?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ai Vowel Team (Long A)

Genre: Nonfiction – Weather Science

High-Frequency Words: the, from, into, when, is

Before Reading

1. This nonfiction story uses "ai" vowel team words like *rain*, *pail*, and *plain*.
 2. Where do you think rain comes from?
 3. Why do plants and trees need water?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Point out that "ai" makes the long A sound and is often in the middle of words.
 2. Watch for ai words that name parts of the rain cycle
 3. What do clouds do before it rains?
 4. Read the final line slowly like a big science fact
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After Reading

1. Retell the steps of how rain forms
 2. Why is rain helpful to plants and people?
 3. What would happen if it never rained in one place?
 4. Skill Check: Circle six ai words in the story
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read it again like you're teaching a science lesson to the class!
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Activity Idea

Draw the rain cycle with labels like "rain," "pail," "plain," and "plants." Write one sentence about why rain is important.

Coaching Tip

Nonfiction texts build real-world knowledge—link decoding to science to show how phonics supports discovery!

