Daily news

Driest winter since 1933–34

Summer pool closures likely, says council

Experts warn of water cuts

Supermarket: prices to soar when crops dry out

In today's Daily news

- *English cricket matches bring on downpours*
- *Native American dances summon rain*
- *Henan, China: 'We plant seeds in the sky to make it rain'*

Making Rain – A Special Report

Who's right? Can we make rain?

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Making Rain: Daily news Special Report

Chinese scientists 'plant seeds in the sky' to make it rain.

1

Lim, the first two stages of rain making happen naturally, right?

2

*Yes. First, water vapour particles condense from the air onto bits of dust or salt. This makes tiny liquid water droplets – or **haze.***

3

*Second, wind blows the haze droplets upwards. High up, it's colder and the pressure is lower. So more water vapour particles condense from the air onto the haze droplets. The droplets get bigger. We've made a **cloud!***

4

So, Lim, there's a cloud in the sky. Why don't all clouds make rain?

5

Well, it depends on the water droplet sizes. If they're different sizes, then bigger, heavier droplets fall fast and hit smaller, slower droplets lower down. The droplets join up and get bigger. It'll rain!

6

But if the droplets in a cloud are all the same size, they fall at the same speed. They can't get bigger, so it doesn't rain.

7

And that's where you come in?

8

Right. We fly a plane through a cloud and spray out salt (sodium chloride) crystals. Water particles hit the salt crystals and the salt dissolves into droplets of water. We get droplets of lots of different sizes – and it rains!

This is 'cloud seeding'. But it doesn't always work perfectly…

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- *Cut out the particle diagrams and labels.*
  Stick the diagrams and labels onto the graphic in sensible places.

● = water particle
○ = oxygen particle
⊗ = nitrogen particle
⊜ = salt particle

Haze

This cloud will never rain

This cloud will rain

This cloud will rain

Water vapour in the air

Water evaporates

It's raining!

Water vapour condenses

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