DESERTS ARE SUPER DRY—BUT HOW DRY?

Scientists can measure dryness with pan evaporation and you can do it, too!

WHAT YOU NEED:
- A baking pan
- Water
- A timer
- A ruler

INSTRUCTIONS:
- Fill the baking pan with an inch of water.
- Place baking pan in a sunny location and time how long it takes for the water to evaporate. Make sure there is not a drop left.
- Write down the amount of time it took for the water to evaporate entirely in the sunny location. Repeat in a shady location.

SUNNY LOCATION

Did it take longer for the water to evaporate in the sunny or shady location? Why?

CHALLENGE: Try the pan evaporation experiment on a windy day. What changes do you predict?

The amount of water the air is able to suck up can tell scientists how long water will stay in an area. This is very important in riparian areas where plants and animals depend on the water to survive!