

LET'S PLAY HIDE AND SEEK?

SCIENCE_ THE STATES OF WATER



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One day Arthur the bear was scratching himself on a tree trunk and thought: "Today I want to play hide and seek. I am unbeatable, my nose can detect anything from miles away." He went to Fox and asked her to hide. Fox dug a burrow, covered it with leaves and went inside certain she would not be found. But Arthur in a few minutes snuck his huge nose inside the burrow and said, "Found you!"

"I'll ask Owl," he thought. Owl climbed up a tree and well hidden in the foliage remained motionless, but in no time at all Arthur climbed to the top and put his wet nose right in front of his face, Owl in fright flew away.

"I'll ask Water," thought Arthur as he headed to a spring where water flowed and gushed and had created a small crystal clear pond where Arthur mirrored himself every morning.

"Water do you want to play hide and seek? Just know that I will win because no one can hide without me being able to find them!"

"Alright," said Water slyly.

"I'll count to twenty, actually to a hundred so you can hide well," said Arthur, grinning confidently, certain that he would find Water just as he had found the others.

Leaning his nose against the trunk of a large tree, he closed his eyes diligently and began to count: "one, two, three... twenty-five... fifty... ninety-nine and a hundred." He finally said, turning around and looking around.

There was no trace of Water. The spring seemed to have dried up and instead of a pond there was now only a void. Arturo looked under the stones, behind the rocks, in the bushes, but to no avail.

He walked the length and breadth of the forest without finding water.



"I give up!" he said dejectedly, leaning against a very cold rock that looked like crystal.

"Here I am!" Water then said.

"Where are you I can't see you?"

"Right behind you," replied Water, "I've turned to ice." Her transparent body sparkled in the sun like a huge diamond; laughing and gurgling, she melted back into her liquid form, bathing poor Arturo from head to toe. Arturo stupefied and surprised shook all over and the droplets returned to Water's fluid body.

"I want a rematch!" said Arturo as he counted again. Turning around, this time too Water had disappeared; Arturo looked everywhere for her, he looked around attentive to every twinkle, but there was no trace of her. After searching the whole forest exhausted, he let himself fall to the ground as a light mist surrounded him. Like a cat made of puffs of steam, it rubbed against him, tickling him.

"I give up," said Arthur again.

"Yet here I am next to you..." said the vaporous water. Arturo squinted his eyes as the vapour condensed and turned liquid again, giving Water her usual form.

"I am still me even if I change form," said Water.

"Do you want to play again?"

"Yes," said Arthur, "but this time let's play chess!"









