



LEARNING IS FUN



BLACK HISTORY LESSON THE BLACK CHURCH: THE METHODISTS

African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church

The African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church is the one of the oldest Black organizations in the United States. The first AME Church was organized by Rev. Richard Allen (see *The ADVANCER*, Vol. 3 No. 13).

Rev. Allen preached in many churches. So many Blacks wanted to hear him preach at the St. George Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania that the White minister ordered them to go to the **gallery** of the church. Allen refused to accept segregation in the "House of God."

One Sunday morning in 1787, the Black members of the congregation left St. George's. Allen organized them into the Free African Society.

Rev. Allen became a very famous preacher and community leader. He organized the Bethel AME Church in Philadelphia in 1794. Other AME churches were founded in Baltimore, Maryland; Wilmington, Delaware; and

other cities.

Today, there are more than 4,500 AME churches with about one million members. The historic AME churches include Mother Bethel and Greater Mt. Olive (Philadelphia); Bethel and Payne Memorial (Baltimore, Maryland); First AME Church (Los Angeles, California); Greater Bethel (Cleveland, Ohio); Bethel and Carey AME Temple (Chicago, Illinois); Allen Temple, St. Paul AME and Vernon Chapel (Detroit, Michigan); Union Bethel (New Orleans, Louisiana); Metropolitan AME (Washington, D.C.); St. Paul AME (St. Louis, Missouri); St. Phillips and Alexander Memorial (Atlanta, Georgia); and Bethel AME (New York City).

African Methodist Episcopal Zion (AMEZ) Church

The first meeting of Black Methodists in New York City was held on January 27, 1771. The group had withdrawn from the John Street Methodist Church because of discrimination against them. For the next 25 years the group met from time

to time.

In 1796, the Black group received permission from the White bishop to hold regular meetings. They fixed up an old stable and used it as a place of worship. They called this place "Zion." It was not until 1799 that they announced that they had formed the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

In 1821, James Varick was elected the first AMEZ bishop.

Christian Methodist Episcopal (CME) Church

Until 1956, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church was known as the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church. It is the third largest group of Black Methodists in the United States.

The CME church was organized after the Civil War. In December 1870, the first General Conference was held in Jackson, Tennessee. Henry Miles and Richard H. Vanderhorst were elected the first CME bishops.

SCIENCE

The Water Cycle

Water on the earth **constantly** moves in a circle. This movement is called the water cycle.

Water **evaporates** from soil, plants, skin of animals, puddles, ponds, lakes and other bodies of water. Water is carried through the air as **vapor** and then **condenses** into small drops to form clouds. The water falls back to the ground in the form of rain or snow from the clouds. Much of this rain or snow goes into the ground. It is used by plants and animals.

You can make a water cycle using two simple materials. This will give you a better understanding of how the water cycle works. You will understand why the water cycle is important in our daily weather, too.

You will need a plastic bag and a twist-tie for the bag. Follow these simple directions:

1. Pour a small amount ($\frac{3}{4}$ cup) of water in the plastic bag.

2. Seal the bag with the twist-tie. (A Ziplock bag may be used, too.)

3. Place the bag on a window sill in direct sunlight. Do you see beads of water forming on the top and sides of the bag? How did they get there?

4. Place the bag in a cool place away from the sunlight. What happens to the beads of water? Why does this happen? How does this **demonstration** explain something about our weather?