

MAKE A RAIN GAUGE



WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- 2-liter plastic bottle
- Masking tape
- Permanent marker
- Ruler
- Stones or pebbles
- Water

WHAT TO DO:

1. Cut the top 1/3 off of the 2-liter plastic bottle
2. Place a few stones in the bottom of the bottle, enough to weigh it down so the wind cannot blow it over.
3. Use a ruler and marker pen to make a scale on the bottle. The scale should be in centimeters (cm).
4. Pour water into the bottle until it reaches the 3 cm mark.
5. Put your rain gauge outside where it can collect water when it starts raining. After a rain shower has finished, check to see how far up the scale the water has risen from 3 cm.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Rain falls into the top of the gauge and collects at the bottom, where it can be easily measured. Try comparing the amount of rain to the length of time the shower lasted. Was it a short and heavy rain shower or a long and light one?

Graph the rainfall over weeks or even months, this is especially interesting if the place you live experiences varying seasons where sometimes it is very dry and other times it is very wet.