



Make a Rain Gauge!

(Suggested Ages: 5+)

Gather

- Plastic bottle
- Ruler
- Sharpie



Let's Explore!

1. Cut the top off the plastic bottle.
2. Place the top upside down inside the other half of the bottle (see picture.)
3. Starting at the bottom of the bottle, measure UP in inches.
4. Place on the ground and your rain gauge is ready to go! You may want to wedge it between some rocks so that it does not tip or blow over.
5. Check your rain gauge after a rain to see how many inches of water fell over the area.

How Does it Work?

Rain forms when the water vapor in the air cools and condenses into water droplets, making clouds. The water droplets eventually get so heavy they must fall, and that's what you see and feel as rain. The amount of rain falling over a given area will be the same, so capturing a sample of that rainfall in a wide mouth container is a good representation of the amount that has fallen. The top of the bottle catches the rain and funnels it into the rest of the bottle, though you could easily do without that extra step. The pre-measured markings make observations quick and easy!

Take it Further!

Record the rainfall daily in your weather journal. Most plants have a requirement for a certain number of inches of rainfall per week, so if you notice a week with low rainfall, help them out with a drink from your garden hose! For more information of rain and weather, visit:

<https://www.weatherwizkids.com/>

<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/menu/weather-and-climate/>