



MAKING A RAIN GAUGE

and Tracking Rainfall Over a Month



OVERVIEW: You will build a simple rain gauge to measure rainfall. Then you will record the amount of rain each day for one month and look for patterns.

QUESTION

How much rain falls in our area over the next month?

MATERIALS

- 1 clear plastic bottle (2-liter soda bottle works best)
- Ruler or measuring tape (with millimeters)
- Permanent marker
- Scissors or utility knife (adult help recommended)
- Tape
- Stick or something sturdy (to help secure your gauge)
- Notebook or data sheet (this page!)

BUILD YOUR RAIN GAUGE

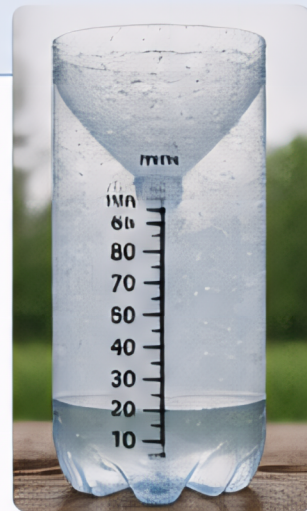
- 1 Cut the bottle:** Cut off the top of the bottle about 1/3 down from the top.
- 2 Invert the top:** Turn the cut top upside down and place it inside the bottom part of the bottle like a funnel.
- 3 Secure:** Tape the two pieces together so the funnel stays in place.
- 4 Add a measurement scale:** Using the ruler and permanent marker, draw a straight vertical line on the outside of the bottle. Starting at the bottom, mark and label measurements in millimeters (mm). Example: 10 mm, 20 mm, 30 mm, ... up the side.
- 5 Place your gauge outside:** Set your rain gauge in an open area away from trees and buildings. Make sure it is standing level.

TIPS

- Check your gauge at the same time each day.
- Empty the water after measuring.
- If water gets dirty, rinse the gauge gently.
- Be safe! Ask an adult for help when cutting.

HOW TO MEASURE

- Look at the water level in the gauge.
- Read the measurement at the bottom of the meniscus (the lowest part of the curve).
- Record the amount in millimeters (mm).
1 mm of rain = 1 liter per square meter.



DAILY RAINFALL DATA SHEET

Month: _____

Date	Rainfall (mm)	Date	Rainfall (mm)
1	_____	16	_____
2	_____	17	_____
3	_____	18	_____
4	_____	19	_____
5	_____	20	_____
6	_____	21	_____
7	_____	22	_____
8	_____	23	_____
9	_____	24	_____
10	_____	25	_____
11	_____	26	_____
12	_____	27	_____
13	_____	28	_____
14	_____	29	_____
15	_____	30	_____
		31	_____

AFTER THE MONTH

1. What was the total rainfall for the month? _____ mm
2. On which day did it rain the most? _____
3. On which days did it not rain at all? _____
4. What patterns do you notice? _____

5. How did this month compare to last month (or what you expected)? _____

NOTES / OBSERVATIONS

