

DIY Rain Gauge

Summary

In this task, you will make your own rain gauge to measure the amount of rainfall this week using items you can find around the house. You'll record your scientific predictions and findings on provided worksheets, and will calculate the rain harvesting potential of your own roofs!



Make a Rain Gauge: (outside activity)

1. Gather materials - clear plastic container (tall enough to collect rain, measuring 4-8 inches in diameter and flat sides), ruler, permanent marker, handful of gravel.
2. Place the gravel at the bottom of the plastic container to keep it from tipping over outside.
3. Fill the container with water up to the level of the gravel. This will be the “zero” when marking measurements on your container.
4. Using the ruler, place a mark every half inch along the side of your container so you can measure how much rain you capture.
5. Place the container outside in an area that will receive full rainfall.

Before it rains, look at the forecast for the week and discuss with your parent what you notice. Then print out this worksheet and fill it out.

Other Ideas for Catching Rainwater:

- The Solana Center in Encinitas has rain barrels that can be purchased with a rebate and picked up at a later date - go to solanacenter.org for more details.
- Use buckets, watering cans, or bowls to collect rainwater that can be used to water plants. Be sure the water is properly protected from mosquitos by covering it.
- Put indoor plants outside to enjoy the rain showers!