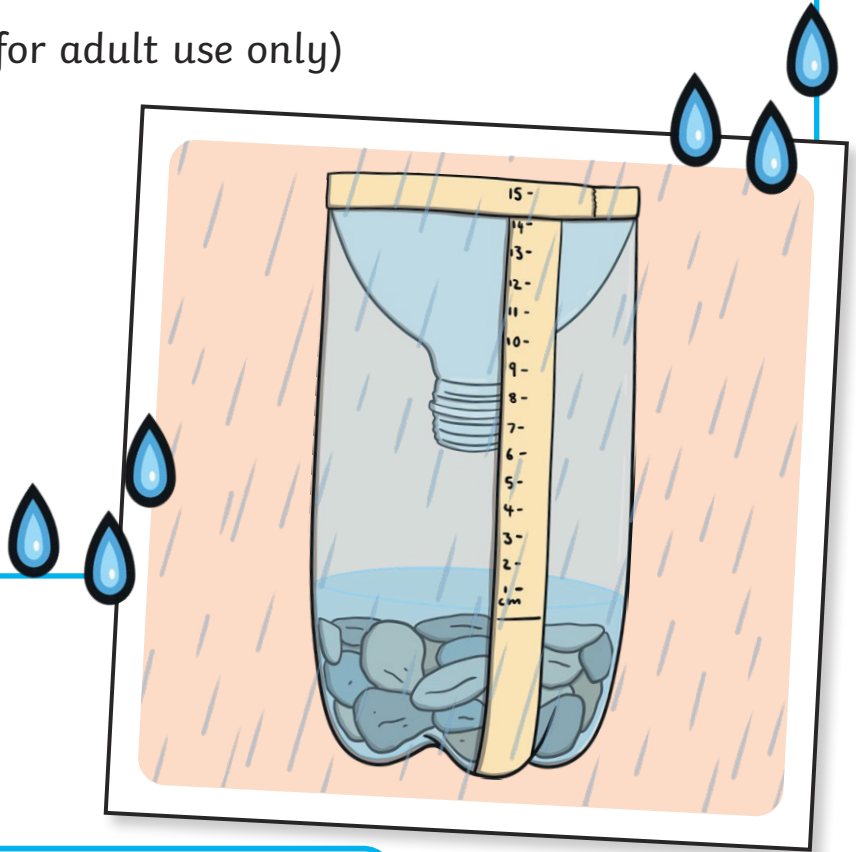


How to Make a Rain Gauge

To observe and describe the weather.

You will need:

- a clean, empty two-litre plastic bottle
- scissors or a craft knife (for adult use only)
- masking tape
- gravel
- 30cm ruler
- permanent marker pen
- water
- spade



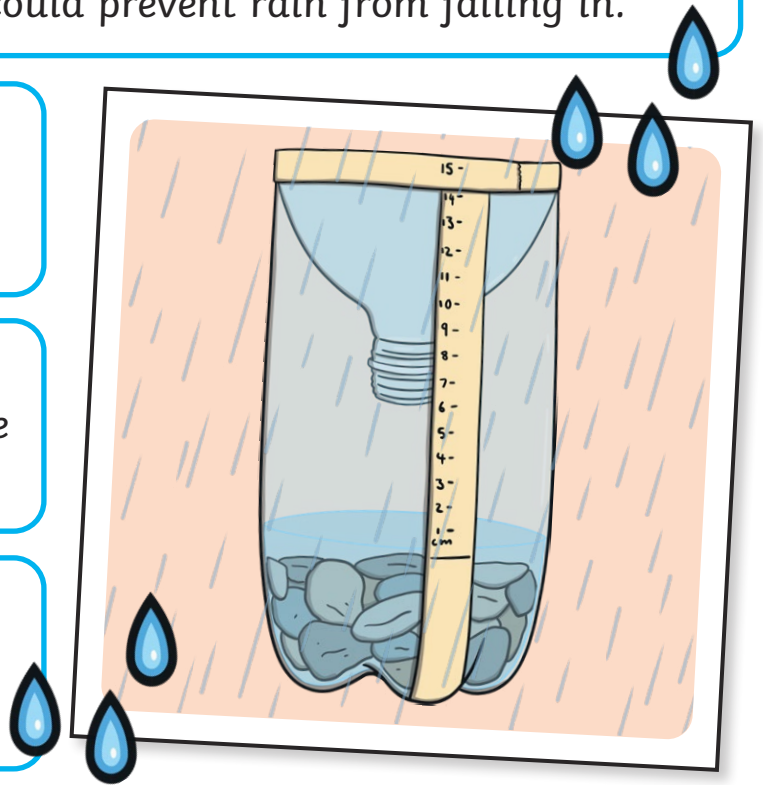
With an adult, follow these instructions to make a simple rain gauge that can measure rainfall.

- 1 Ask an adult to carefully cut off the top of the plastic bottle, taking care of the sharp plastic edge.
- 2 Turn the top of the bottle upside down so that the mouth of the bottle is pointing down and place it inside the other part of the bottle like a funnel. Fix both parts together with some masking tape.

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- 3 Fill the bottom of the bottle with the gravel, making sure the gravel is level.
- 4 Stick a straight line of masking tape down the side of the bottle. You are going to draw a ruler on this.
- 5 Just above the gravel, mark 0cm on the straight line of masking tape. This is where your measurements will start from. Then, using a ruler, mark a scale in centimetres on the masking tape with a permanent marker pen. Alternatively, if you have one, you could fix a spare ruler onto the side of the bottle.
- 6 Fill your bottle with water so that the water covers the gravel but doesn't go above the 0cm mark you made.
- 7 Find a place outside to put your rain gauge. It must be open and away from any trees or buildings that could prevent rain from falling in.
- 8 Dig a small hole and bury your rain gauge to ensure it is stable and won't fall or get blown over.
- 9 Check the rain gauge every day at the same time and measure the amount of rain it has collected.
- 10 If it doesn't rain, check that the water in the bottle hasn't gone down below 0cm.



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