

Water Cycle Experiment: Precipitation



*This experiment must only be conducted with adult supervision.
Please take care when using scissors.*

In this experiment you will make your own rain gauge and use this to record precipitation (rainfall) levels in your local area.

You will need:

- A clean empty plastic bottle – preferably a 2 litre bottle
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- Ruler
- Marker pen

Now you need to:

1. Cut the top off the plastic bottle, about two thirds of the way up.
2. Take the top part of the bottle and turn it upside down, then place it into the other half of the bottle – fix it with sticky tape.
3. When the top part of the bottle is secure use a ruler and a marker pen to draw a scale in centimetres down the side of the bottle.
4. Go outside and place your rain gauge in a location where it will collect rain, away from things that may affect the collection such as trees, buildings etc.
5. Dig a hole and bury the rain gauge so that the top is sticking about 5cm out of the ground. Burying the rain gauge will help to keep it stable and upright on a windy day.
6. Check the rain gauge every day at the same time. Once you have measured and written down the amount of water it has collected, pour the water out and place it back in its hole.

Try this experiment at different times of year and compare your findings between the seasons.