



Clean Foundation is an independent, non-governmental environmental charity that began in 1988.

Activity title: Make a rain gauge

Subject: Science

Materials required:

- Clear jar (or any receptacle)
- Ruler (or old tape measure, anything you can use to measure)
- Waterproof tape (or waterproof glue)
- A large piece of wood (solid base)
- A journal to record your observations (this can also be done electronically)

Instructions:

- 1. Cut your ruler so it fits inside the jar and can measure to the top**
- 2. Place ruler inside jar down making sure it reaches the bottom**
- 3. Glue it into place**
- 4. Glue jar onto large piece of wood, this will help it stay upright in case of strong wind**
- 5. Place your rain gauge away from any trees, roofs, gutters or other large objects that may obstruct, divert or change the way rain falls into your jar.**

Observations:

You should observe your rain gauge at the same time every day and record your observations in a journal. By checking your rain gauge at the same time every day, you ensure a full 24h period in between measurements. Once you've taken your measurement, you should empty it out.

Going further and discussing other places this can be observed:

Ask:

- *How will your rain gauge work with hail? Snow?*

- *What will happen if you measure your rain gauge at the hottest time during the day?*

Some answers to help guide the discussion:

Snow and hail are measured differently, if you want to measure snowfall, you should have a spare ruler and stick it in the snow and see how deep it is. For hail, you need to prepare a board made of a soft material like Styrofoam wrapped in tin foil, you would then need to average the amount of hail on the board to determine what fell (more complicated and single use).

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If you measure rain during the hottest time of the day, you may lose some of the rain by evaporation. It is recommended you measure rainfall in the morning.

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