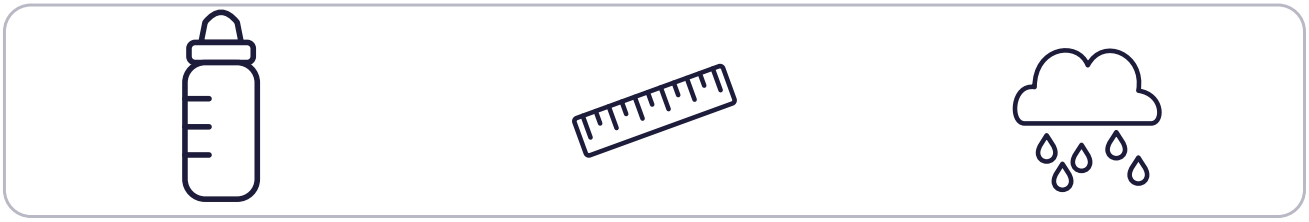
Instructions

Level 3 · Year 2 · Grade 2

How to Make a Rain Gauge



A rain gauge is a tool that measures how much rain has fallen. Weather scientists use them all over the world. You can make your own.

You will need:

- a large, clear plastic bottle with straight sides
- scissors (ask an adult to help)
- a handful of small stones
- a ruler and a marker pen
- some sticky tape

1. Ask an adult to cut the top off the bottle, about a third of the way down.
2. Put the small stones in the bottom of the bottle. They will stop it from blowing over.
3. Pour in water until it just covers the stones. Draw a line at the top of the water and write 0 next to it.
4. Hold the ruler against the bottle, with its 0 on your line. Mark every centimeter up the side.
5. Turn the top of the bottle upside down and push it into the bottle like a funnel. Tape it in place.
6. Put your rain gauge outside in an open space, away from trees and buildings.

Check your rain gauge at the same time every day. Write down how many centimeters of rain have fallen. Then tip out the water until it is back at your 0 line.

Questions: How to Make a Rain Gauge

Name _____ Date _____

1 **What does a rain gauge measure?** Find it 1b

2 **Why do you put stones in the bottom of the bottle? Tick one.** Find it 1b

- [ ] to make it look pretty
- [ ] to stop it from blowing over
- [ ] to measure the rain

3 **"Push it into the bottle like a funnel." A funnel is... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

- [ ] wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, to pour things in
- [ ] a kind of ruler
- [ ] a tall cup with a handle

4 **What must you do before you draw the 0 line?** In order 1c

5 **Number the steps 1 to 4 in the right order.** In order 1c

- [ ] Mark every centimeter up the side.
- [ ] Cut the top off the bottle.
- [ ] Put the rain gauge outside.
- [ ] Put the stones in the bottom.

6 **Why should the rain gauge be away from trees and buildings?** Think it 1d

Questions: How to Make a Rain Gauge (continued)

Name _____ Date _____

7 **Why do you check the rain gauge at the same time every day?** Think it 1d

_____

_____

_____

Draw yourself doing one of the steps.

Answers: How to Make a Rain Gauge

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

1 **What does a rain gauge measure?** Find it 1b

how much rain has fallen

In the text: "A rain gauge is a tool that measures how much rain has fallen."

2 **Why do you put stones in the bottom of the bottle? Tick one.** Find it 1b

- [ ] to make it look pretty
- [x] to stop it from blowing over
- [ ] to measure the rain

In the text: "They will stop it from blowing over."

3 **"Push it into the bottle like a funnel." A funnel is... Tick one.** Word meaning 1a

- [x] wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, to pour things in
- [ ] a kind of ruler
- [ ] a tall cup with a handle

In the text: "Turn the top of the bottle upside down and push it into the bottle like a funnel."

4 **What must you do before you draw the 0 line?** In order 1c

Pour in water until it just covers the stones.

In the text: "Pour in water until it just covers the stones." ... "Draw a line at the top of the water"

5 **Number the steps 1 to 4 in the right order.** In order 1c

- 3 Mark every centimeter up the side.
- 1 Cut the top off the bottle.
- 4 Put the rain gauge outside.
- 2 Put the stones in the bottom.

In the text: "cut the top off the bottle", then "Put the small stones in the bottom of the bottle.", then "Mark every centimeter up the side.", then "Put your rain gauge outside"

6 **Why should the rain gauge be away from trees and buildings?** Think it 1d

Possible answer: They could stop some rain from falling into it (or drip extra water in), so the measurement would be wrong.

In the text: "Put your rain gauge outside in an open space, away from trees and buildings."

Answers: How to Make a Rain Gauge (continued)

Accept answers in the child's own words that show the same understanding.

7 **Why do you check the rain gauge at the same time every day?** Think it 1d

Possible answer: So that each reading shows the rain from one whole day, and the days can be compared fairly.

In the text: "Check your rain gauge at the same time every day."

Facts checked against: Met Office: make a rain gauge.