

Amaze Your Brain *at Home!*

EXPERIMENTS

BEST FOR
18 months-
4 years

DIY RAIN GAUGE

Watch this experiment on our YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/eOSuEuMyRrk>

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut the top off the plastic bottle. If you are using a 2-liter bottle, you will want to cut where the bottle begins to curve. Save the top of the bottle.
2. Fill the bottom of the bottle with small rocks. This will help keep your rain gauge from blowing away.
3. Just above the rocks, draw a line. This is where you will start measuring the rain.
4. Line the 0 of your measuring tape up with the line you have already drawn. Use your permanent marker to mark a line at each inch, all the way up to the top. Label the inch marks on your bottle.
5. Fill the bottom of the bottle with water, up to starting line.
6. If you still have the top portion of the bottle, flip it over and put it back into the rain gauge, this way it will act as a funnel. Use duct tape to secure the pieces together.
7. Place your rain gauge in an uncovered area outside to catch the most rain!

MATERIALS

- One empty plastic bottle
- Scissors
- Small rocks or pebbles
- Measuring tape or ruler
- Permanent marker
- Duct tape

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

A meteorologist is a person that studies the atmosphere, or air around the earth. They use tools to learn about weather patterns, and predict what the weather will be in the future. Not only do meteorologists want to predict the future weather, but they do this to keep people safe! Have you ever seen a weatherperson on the news? If so, you've seen a meteorologist at work!

Meteorologists use a rain gauge to measure precipitation. A rain gauge is usually a cylinder, with an open top, that collects rainwater over a period of time. It is helpful to understand rainfall and keep track of how much rain an area receives. Too much rain can cause flooding; too little rain can cause drought.

To extend this activity at home, try keeping track of the rainfall every day for a week or month!



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