

MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN GAUGE



The average rainfall in Tucson is about 12 inches a year. Scientists measure the amount of rain that falls from the sky using an instrument called a rain gauge. It collects and measures the rainwater to show how much fell. Here is one type of rain gauge.



You can make your own rain gauge to use when it rains. Since you don't need to be as precise, you can make one out of recycled materials. Here's how!



Materials

- Empty plastic bottle
- Rocks or pebbles
- Ruler
- Tape
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- Water

Instructions

1. Carefully cut off the top of the bottle at the wide part below where it begins to narrow.
2. Put pebbles in the bottom to keep it from blowing over.
3. Take the cap off the top. Flip it upside down and tape the edges together so that it stays in place.
4. Cover the pebbles with water, so that it covers the pebbles and makes a level surface. Mark this point with a permanent marker so you have a starting point. Beside the mark write a zero.
5. Take a ruler and start it at your zero mark you just made. Mark every quarter inch on the bottle with the marker so you can measure how much rain you collect.
6. Wait for a rainy day, and when you think it might rain, fill your water gauge up to the zero mark and set it outside where it can catch raindrops. After it rains, check to see how much rain you got using your markings on the water bottle.
7. Record how much rain fell in a notebook or on a calendar. See if you can measure the rainfall for a month or even a whole year!

