



The Story of Water-Our Changing Climate and conservation

Teacher notes:

- After watching part 7 of 'The Story of Water- Our Changing Climate and Conservation' discuss the topic of draught with the class. Draw on class experience of hot weather and discuss examples of drought conditions in Ireland and its effects, such as the hose pipe ban.
- Discuss ways in which we measure water and why it is important to track precipitation.
- Follow steps below in order to make your own rain gauge.

How to Make Your Own Rain Gauge:

Materials needed:

- Ruler
- Paperclips
- Masking tape
- 2L empty plastic water bottle
- scissors

Method:

1. Use the scissors to cut off the top of the bottle. Cut the bottle about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way down.
2. Put the stones in the bottom of the bottle—this will provide stability for your rain gauge.
3. Take off the cap and turn the top of the bottle upside down. The top of the bottle will act like a funnel. Place it in the bottom part of the bottle, pointing downward. Tape the edges together so the top part is firmly in place
4. Use a long piece of tape to make a straight vertical line from the top edge of the bottle to the bottom. Use the marker to draw a line on the vertical piece of tape just a little above the top of the stones. This will be the bottom of your rain gauge.
5. Set the ruler against the vertical tape so that the “0” line lines up with the bottom mark. Use the marker to mark every centimetre along the piece of tape. Then label the centimetres from bottom to top.
6. Set the bottle on a level surface and pour some water in until it reaches the bottom mark. Your rain gauge is now ready to go!
7. Place your rain gauge outside in a spot that is sheltered enough from the wind so it will not be knocked over, however make sure it will still be exposed to any rain that may fall.
8. Record rainfall daily. If there have been dry days make sure your water level is always at zero to avoid any incorrect readings as some water may evaporate.