

MAKE YOUR OWN RAIN GAUGE

The average rainfall for Tucson is about 12 inches a year. Much of this rain comes during summer monsoon storms. Scientists measure the amount of rain that falls from the sky with a rain gauge, an instrument that captures the rain water and has a ruler to tell us how much fell. You can make your own rain gauge with a couple materials and some rainy weather to measure!



Materials

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



This is what a purchased scientific rain gauge can look like. Since you don't need to be as precise, you can make one out of recycled materials!



Instructions

1. Carefully cut the top off the bottle at the wide part just before it starts to get narrow.
2. Put pebbles in the bottom, this will 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 fully and makes a level surface. Mark this point with a sharpie 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 with a sharpie on the bottle so you can see how much rain you collect.
6. Wait for a rainy day. When you think it might rain, fill your water gauge up to the zero mark and set it outside. When it rains, check to see how much fell using your markings on the bottle.
7. You can record in a notebook how much rain you get, and see if you can measure the rainfall of a month or even a whole year!

