



# Make a Rain Gauge

A rain gauge is something you can use to see how much rain falls. In this experiment you will make your own and test it on a rainy day.



This is what you will need:

- Find a glass with straight sides. The glass should look like this:
- A ruler or tape measure.



This is what you do:

1. Put the glass outside in a place that is open to the sky.
2. Wait for it to rain.
3. When it stops raining, use the measuring tool to see how deep the water in the glass is.
4. Find out how much rain fell. Go on the internet or TV to find out.

1. Does your measurement match what the actual amount of rain was?

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2. How does evaporation work? Did it affect your reading?

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# Build Your Own Ecosystem!

We have talked and read about so many ecosystems.  
Now it is time to build your own!

## COLLECT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- Gravel or small rocks
- Soil/dirt
- A jar or bottle (with a large enough top to put your hand into)
- A lid for your jar or bottle to seal it  
(you can seal it with tape if you think air can get into the jar)
- A few plants from the school yard or a garden
- Small animals from the garden  
(worms, snails, slugs, etc.)
- Wood, garden rocks or branches to make it look like a real ecosystem



## WHAT YOU WILL DO:

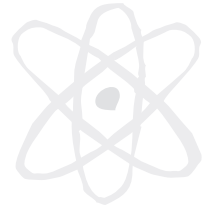
1. Put a large handful of gravel or small rocks in the bottom of your jar.
2. Add a large handful of soil.
3. Plant the plants into the soil. Try to choose plants that fit into your jar. If it's a small jar, only use small plants. If you put too many plants in, they will not survive!
4. If you think your ecosystem needs water, add a bit of water. Don't over water your ecosystem though!
5. **This is the fun bit...** choose some animals. Use anything you can find in the school yard or garden. Remember, choose small animals. You want these animals to survive!
6. Close your ecosystem. Put the lid on or use tape to seal it.

Now it's time to record your observations!

## ON A PIECE OF PAPER, record the following things:

- Size of your container (you may want to draw a picture of your ecosystem)
- Number and type of plants and animals you used
- How much soil you used
- What is happening in your system? Count your animals and record if your plants are growing. Have all of your plants and animals survived?

Have fun building your own ecosystem!



# Build It!

## MAKE A NEBULA

### You need:

- 1 casserole dish (or other clear dish of a similar size)
- 1 pipette
- 1 sheet black construction paper
- 1 bottle clear nail polish
- newspaper
- water

### Steps

- STEP ONE:** Fill the dish halfway with water and soak the paper in it. Make sure the paper is at the bottom of the dish.
- STEP TWO:** Fill the pipette with polish and place one drop in the center of the dish. Wait for the nebula to form.
- STEP THREE:** When it forms, wait about 5 seconds for it to harden on the surface of the water.
- STEP FOUR:** Lift the paper to catch the nebula and wait for it to dry on the paper.
- STEP FIVE:** Examine the nebula that formed.