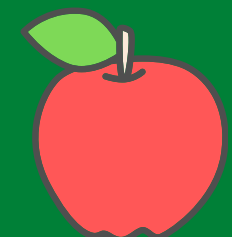


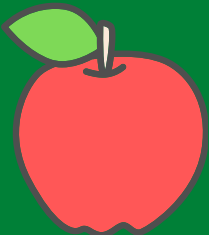
In the garden:

Make a rain gauge

Knowing how much rain falls in your local area is very useful when planning a garden. I will help you decide which plants or crops would suit the area by researching their water needs. If you already have plants and crops in the garden, keeping track of the rain when you're away means you know whether to not you need to water the garden.



Making a rain gauge



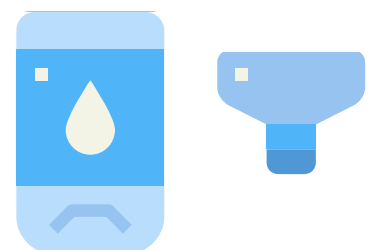
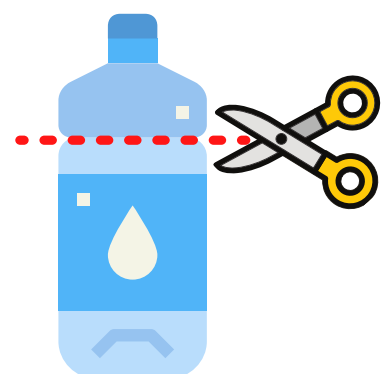
In this activity, you will make an instrument called a rain gauge to measure rainfall in your garden.

Equipment:

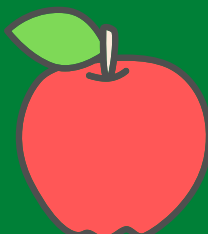
- 1 empty plastic water/ soft drink bottle from your recycling bin. A flatter bottom is best. Wash and remove the label.
- A measuring tape, *if you want to measure in cm*
- A measuring jug with mLs, *if you want to measure in mLs*
- Sharp scissors or a stanley knife +an adult to do this part
- A fine-tipped permanent marker
- Strong tape

Method:

- Ask an adult to cut the bottle top off where the cylindrical part starts to taper in
- Remove the lid, you do not need it for this activity- ***don't just throw it out, think about where and how you can use the lid, do you keep them for artworks?***
- Turn the top upside down and place inside the base of the bottle, and tape together



Making a rain gauge



Method continued:

- To measure in cm, use your measuring tape to mark the bottle from the bottom, in half centimetres up to 20 cm.
- To measure in mls, pour 5mls of water into your measuring jug, then transfer to the bottle, marking the line on the bottle with 5mLs. Repeat, and mark the next level with 10 mLs. Keep going until you have 100 mLs. Then go back and mark increments halfway between each 5mLs.
- Place your bottle in an outside area away from trees or shelter. To make sure the bottle stays in place when it's windy, you may like to drive a small wooden stake into the ground and tie it with some string, or to a fence pailing. Make sure you can untie the bottle to empty.
- Records your measurements after each rainfall. You may also like to compare to the local weather forecast, and with friends recording rainfall in there backyards.





Follow up :



Where did you pour the rainwater collected?

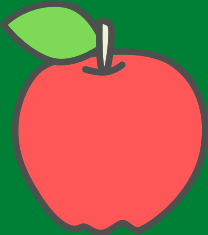
A large, empty yellow rounded rectangular box intended for the user to write their answer to the question above.

Where your measurements similar to the TV weather or your friend's measurements?

A large, empty yellow rounded rectangular box intended for the user to write their answer to the question above.

Did this help you to decide how often to water plants in your garden?

A large, empty yellow rounded rectangular box intended for the user to write their answer to the question above.



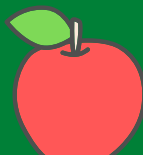
There are things we can all do to help!



Freshwater is a very precious resource, and Australia goes through times of severe drought. We all need to do our part in making sure water isn't wasted and reserves in dams can be used where it is needed most.

There are small steps we can make every day to help. If everyone takes small steps, it makes a big difference!

- **Don't leave the tap on when you brush your teeth.**
- **In times of drought, keep a bucket in the shower to use on the lawn.**
- **Take shorter showers, and don't fill the bath all the way up.**
- **Choose plants native to your area for the garden when you can.**
- **Recycle, buy things in packaging that can be recycled, and even clothes and toys can be made out of recycled items- mining and production use A LOT of water.**
- **Eat more locally grown veggies, and less meat also helps!**





Doing my part!



What are some things you can do to help at home and school? You can write or draw them below.

A large, empty yellow rounded rectangle with a thick border, intended for students to write or draw their answers.