



## Rain gauge and findings

How do we measure the amount of rain that falls? Here is how to get a rough measurement of rainfall depth at home and collect your own data. If this is in the summer months, some of the water may evaporate and this will affect your recordings. You can add a thin layer of oil to the water, which will float as it is less dense. This will prevent water evaporation. These measurements will tell you how much rainfall occurred over a period of time, x 1 day, x1 week, x1 month, x1 year!

You will need:

Bottle

Jelly

Scissors

Tape

Ruler

Marker pen

What to do:

- 1) Cut the top off the plastic bottle about two thirds up.
- 2) To measure the rainfall correctly, you will need a flat bottom and this is where the jelly comes in! Pour about 3 or 4 cubes jelly mix into the bottom of the plastic bottle until you create a flat surface.
- 3) Turn the top of the bottle upside down and place into the bottom of the bottle. Fix in place with tape.
- 4) Mark a line around the bottle where the jelly sets and you have created the new flat surface.
- 5) Make a scale in centimetres using a ruler or tape and fix it to the bottle starting the measurements from your line where the jelly has set.
- 6) Your rain gauge is now ready to use. Find a location outside ideally open and away from trees and falling leaves.
- 7) You could dig a hole and bury your gauge in the ground, leaving the top sticking out, so that it stays put on windy days. This also prevents the jelly from melting in the sun!
- 8) Its best to check your rain gauge at the same time every day. Measure the amount of rainwater collected and empty the bottle.
- 9) Make a weather diary and keep a log of your findings.