



## HOW TO BUILD A RAIN GAUGE

- Scissors or knife
- Empty/Clean Water Bottle (Let's **recycle** and use an old one!)
- Permanent Marker
- Rocks
- Water
- Measuring Tape or Ruler



1. From the bottom of the bottle, measure up approximately 4" and mark several times around the bottle.
2. Cut the bottle around the measurement of the 4" mark.
3. Now your bottle is in two pieces. Set top aside.
4. Place medium size rocks in the bottom of the bottle...these will help keep it from getting blown over if it's windy. Mark where the top of the rocks end.
5. Use the ruler or tape measurer and mark every inch up from the mark at the top of the rocks with your permanent marker. Write 1", 2", 3"... and so on.
6. Take the top of the bottle that you had set aside and place it upside down into the bottom of the bottle. This will help keep debris from falling into the bottle.
7. Cover the rocks with water, to the mark that starts your rain gauge.
8. Set your rain gauge in a garden and wait for rain... *be sure to pick a great spot!\**

Rain falls into the top of the gauge and collects at the bottom, where it can be easily measured. Try comparing the amount of rain to the length of time the shower lasted, was it a short and heavy rain shower or a long and light one? If you want to get serious you can graph the rainfall over weeks or even months, this is especially interesting if the place you live experiences varying seasons where sometimes it is very dry and other times it is very wet! You can use the rainfall data to reduce outdoor irrigation and save water!

*\*You want somewhere level that's open to the sky and that's not likely to get too windy, where the gauge isn't likely to be disturbed. There shouldn't be anything hanging over the gauge that could either block any rain or make extra raindrops drip into the bottle (like a tree or a power line or the edge of a roof).*