

Rain Catcher



This nifty little project is fun & can be used to teach children about the water cycle & the effect rainfall has on their surroundings.

What you will need...



1. a wooden spoon
2. approx. 1 meter of wool cut into strips
3. craft glue
4. buttons or beads to decorate
5. a ruler, scissors & ballpoint pen
6. an empty plastic drinks bottle



What you will do...

1. Cut the top off the plastic bottle using the scissors, place to one side.
2. Using the ruler & ballpoint pen, & working up from the bottom of the spoon handle, mark every centimetre until you reach the top of the handle.
3. Make a face on your spoon using the craft glue, buttons, beads & wool. Give your rain catcher a name.



4. Put some pebbles in the bottom of the plastic bottle & place it in your garden somewhere it will catch the rain.
5. Go out every day at the same time & measure the contents of the bottle using your measuring spoon. Record it in your diary. Write a total for every week & month. You could plot your data on a line graph.
6. At the same time every day observe your surroundings & make a note in your diary. e.g. The grass is brown. The ground is soft. There are more slugs than usual. I saw a toad. There was a grass snake.
7. Over time you may be able to link certain levels of rainfall with changes in your surroundings.

Some rainy facts for you to compare your data to...

- ☁ June to July 2007, was an extremely wet month, the UK's average rainfall was 270.9mm
- Spring 2011 (March, April, May) was the warmest in the last 100 years. It was also very dry for some parts of the UK receiving less than 20mm rainfall

visit www.metoffice.gov.uk for more rainy facts & figures relating to your region



Handy Tips

1) If it is windy where you live you may need to dig a small hole to put your rain catcher in so it doesn't fall over.

