

# THE WATER CYCLE

## Activity 3

### Make a Rain Gauge

You will need: a large soft drink bottle, scissors, a ruler, a waterproof marker pen (or coloured tape), a heavy flower pot, a notepad and pencil

- Step 1** Carefully cut the top off the plastic bottle with the scissors.



- Step 2** Turn the top upside down and wedge it in the bottle to form a funnel. (If necessary, use sticky tape to hold the top of the bottle in place).

- Step 3** Using a ruler, measure out a scale (in millimetres) on a piece of paper. Either stick this to the side of the bottle, or use the marker pen to mark out the lines instead. Alternatively, cut the coloured tape into strips and stick them a certain distance apart (eg: 10 mm) up the side of the bottle. Make sure that whatever you use, it is waterproof!



- Step 4** To prevent the rain gauge from blowing over, place it outside in a heavy flowerpot. Alternatively, you could dig a hole in the ground for it to stand in. Make sure the rain gauge is placed in an open area. If it is near any trees or buildings, extra water could drip into it and your measurements will not be accurate.



- Step 5** Now you are ready to record how much rainfall is received over a certain time. Check the rain gauge every day, or once a week if you prefer, and record how much water is in the bottle. Use the scale or the marks on the side of the bottle to help you.

**Remember**, if you are only taking measurements once a week, make sure your rain-gauge does not overflow in between if you get a lot of rain. You could always use a measuring cylinder to store the week's rain before you measure it.

Each time you measure the water, plot the results on a graph or in a table. You could print out the table below to help you if it is easier. Make sure you could draw it yourself as well though.



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## Record Your Results!

millimetres

100							
95							
90							
85							
80							
75							
70							
65							
60							
55							
50							
45							
40							
35							
30							
25							
20							
15							
10							
5							
0							
	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Day 7</b>

### Other Ideas:

During the summer months, Gisborne's water supply can become extremely low. To help conserve town-supply water, what ways could you use collected rainwater in and around the home? Write or draw as many ideas as you can.