

# BACK TO NATURE

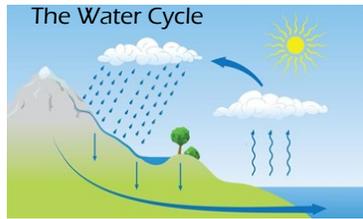


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## Rain Check

**Rain, rain, don't go away. Go out and play.**

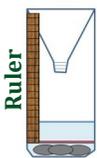
It may be raining but you can still go outside to explore. But first, let's make a rain gauge so you can measure how much rain is falling.

You will need: Empty 2-liter soda bottle, scissors, marker, stones, water, paperclips, ruler.

Cut top off bottle.

Place stones in bottom of bottle. Cover stones with water up to point where the sides of the bottle become straight. Use your marker to mark where the water is.

Place the bottle top upside down into the bottle to make a funnel. Use paperclips to hold in place.



Place your rain gauge outside in an open space away from buildings and trees. After it rains, place the ruler at the mark on your bottle and measure how much water you collected in inches.

Visit the [National Weather Service](#) and the [Center for Science Education](#) to learn about you weather and your local forecast.

## Can you make it rain indoors?

**How does rain form? Try this:**

Carefully pour 2 inches of very hot water into a glass jar. Cover the jar with a plate. Wait 2 minutes. Place several ice cubes on the plate and observe what happens.



Start a journal to keep track of your rain observations. You can purchase a waterproof notebook [online](#) or at a local store.



## Go Outside



When it rains, monitor your rain gauge. Measure & record # inches/hour. Be sure to empty your gauge after each reading.

**How do your measurements change over time?  
Is there more or less rain?  
Which days had the most rain?  
How often does it rain in your area?**

### When it rains, where does the rain go?

When a storm passes through, rain pours down.

**Can you find at least 3 places where the rainwater flows?**

**Where does the water flow or form a puddle?  
When water flows down your street, where does it go?**

**When a puddle forms, how deep does it get?  
How long does puddle last? Where does it go?**

**How does rain help plants and trees?**

Take photos of your observations and share on Facebook and Instagram using these hashtags:  
**#casbacktonature #casnatureplay**



## Stormwater Solutions

During really heavy storms, rain can cause flooding. There are a couple of things you can do to help control how water flows.

**Install a rain barrel** to capture water that flows off your roof and use it to water your garden.

**Install a rain garden** to direct water into the ground and not into a sewer.

Click to learn more about [rain barrels](#) and [rain gardens](#).

