



# Wild Schools

## At Home

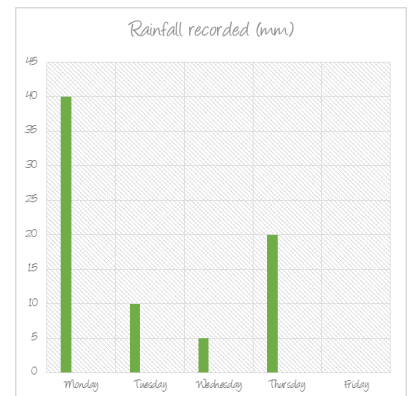
### Weather Detectives

### Make a Rain Gauge

Science, design

People who study weather are called meteorologists. One method they use is a rain gauge to find out how much rain has fallen.

You can chart rainfall in your garden by making a simple rain gauge from recycled materials.



You will need an old plastic bottle, a ruler, scissors and a marker pen.

1. Cut the top off the bottle - you should ask an adult to do this part.
2. Lay the ruler next to the bottle and mark on a scale up the side in mm.
3. Dig a shallow hole in the ground outside to rest your gauge in so it doesn't blow away.
4. Every day record how much rain has fallen and empty the gauge.
5. Plot a chart to show how the rainfall has changed over the week.

You could try predicting the weather ( see our ideas on this sheet) and compare it to your rain gauge findings. Did your predictions come true?



## Predict rainfall

Science

Lots of folklore surrounds predicting weather. It is said that both daisies and dandelions will close their flowers just before it rains. You may be familiar with the idea that pine cones also predict rain. If the weather is dry the cone is said to stay open but if it is about to rain the cone will close up. If you can find some cones why not watch what they do over a few days, test out how accurate they are at predicting the weather using your weather diary to help you spot patterns



## Use the wind to predict changes in the weather

Science

Another idea is that you can use the wind and clouds to predict weather. First, find out which way the wind is blowing. You could do this by throwing a fallen leaf or a few blades of grass into the air and seeing which way it is blown. Next, stand with your back to the wind and look up. If the clouds are moving directly towards or away from you the weather is likely to stay the same. When the clouds are moving from the left to right the weather is going to get worse but if they move from the right to left it is likely to get better! Try it out and see if your predictions are correct

## Look for shapes in the clouds

Art, literacy

On a dry day when there are some clouds in the sky, lay down on the floor outside and watch the clouds for a while. What shapes can you spot? Are there any creatures or faces? Can you make up a story using the shapes that you see?





# Derbyshire

## Wildlife Trust

### My Weather Diary

Date	Today the weather is.....(describe what it is like)	Rain (mm)	This is how the weather made me feel

