

## **ACTIVITY TWO: LET'S MAKE A RAIN GAUGE**

During this TECHNOLOGY lesson, learners make an easy but accurate rain gauge, to measure the rainfall at school.

One of the ways we can measure how much rain falls in our area is by using a rain gauge and recording the rainfall daily. Learners need to work neatly, safely and carefully, ensuring minimum wastage of materials.

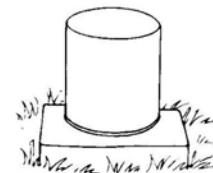
### **Let's make our own tin can rain gauge**

Each learner will need:

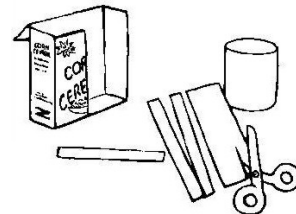
- Tin can
- Breakfast cereal packet
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ruler
- Pencil

### **WHAT TO DO:**

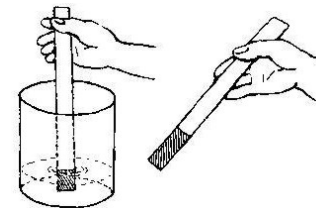
1. Put an empty tin on a flat surface out in the school grounds, well away from overhanging trees, shrubs and sprinklers.



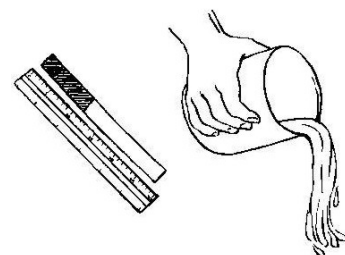
2. Make some rain dipsticks by cutting long 1cm-wide strips from the breakfast cereal box. The sticks must be longer than the height of the can.



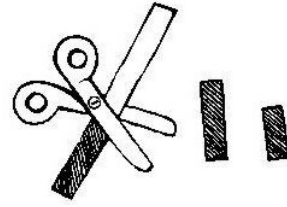
3. With your class, at the same time each day, measure the rainfall by dipping the dipstick into each can so that they touch the bottom. See how the rain leaves a wet mark on the cardboard.



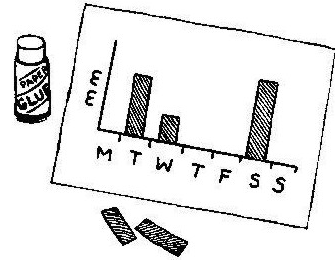
4. Use a ruler to measure the length of the wet part of the cardboard in millimetres – this is how much it has rained. Empty the cans.



5. Cut the wet piece off the dipstick and let it dry. Keep it flat and write the date and rainfall in millimetres on it.



6. When the piece of dipstick is dry, make a chart of the rainfall for a week. Glue each piece to paper to form a record of rainfall at your school.



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You may decide to place the tin can rain gauges in different places around the school to see if there is any difference in rainfall within the school grounds.

*Note: if possible ensure that the learners choose tin cans deep enough to hold an average day's rainfall for your area. The can must not have a rim that makes the mouth narrower than the base.*

### **ASK THE CLASS:**

1. Do you think our rain gauges worked well?
2. Could they have worked better? How?
3. Were our results accurate? (you, the teacher, can find out the correct rainfall figures for your area for that particular week, by contacting the local Weather Bureau).
4. If some of your learners live a distance from the school, why not get them all to make a rain gauge for their gardens at home and record the rainfall during the holidays or over a long weekend. You and your class can then plot and compare the different rainfall amounts on a map of your area.

Criteria to assess learners during this technology lesson

Criteria	Exceeded requirements of the Learning Outcome	Satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Partially satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome	Not satisfied requirements of the Learning Outcome
The learner worked neatly and safely when making his/her rain gauge				
The learner cut out 1cm-wide strips for rain dipsticks				
The learner discussed (evaluated) how they had made their rain gauge				
The learner made a chart to show rainfall at school over a one-week period				