

ACTIVITY FIVE: JUST FOR FUN: MAKING A BOTTLE RAIN GAUGE

This fun TECHNOLOGY activity can be done in the classroom or at home. For learners who may struggle with this, there are instructions for an easier 'tin can rain gauge' in Activity 2 of the Grade 5 pack.

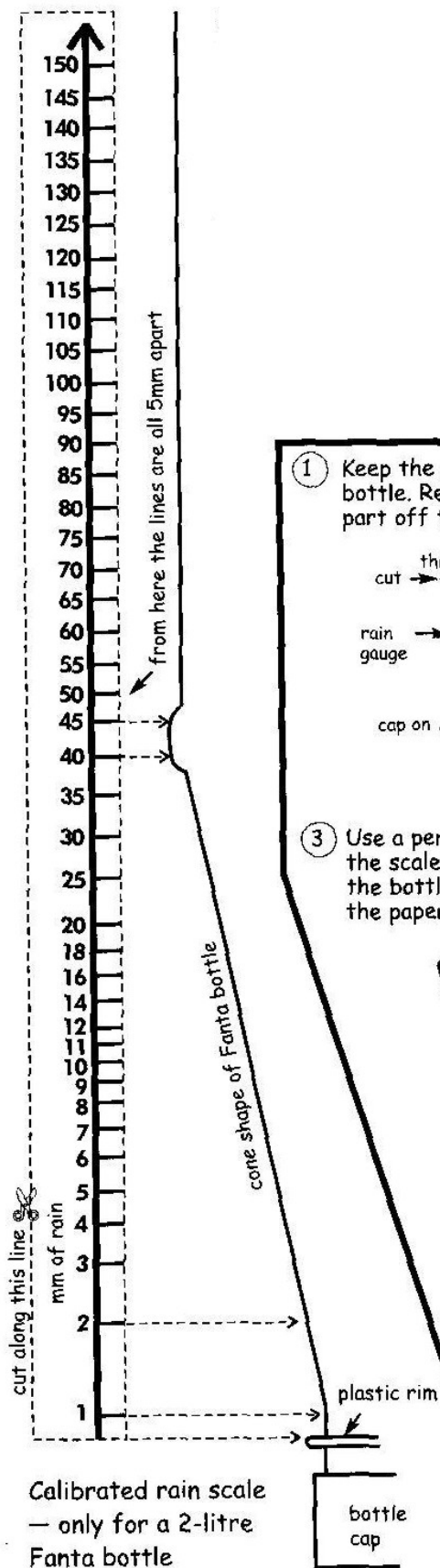
Measuring rainfall

Rain is measured in millimetres. The narrow base of a cone-shaped rain gauge makes it easier to measure small amounts of rain. The cone has to be specially calibrated (to check, adjust, or determine by comparison with a standard) by doing some magic with maths. To save you the effort, we have given you a rain scale that is calibrated for a 2-litre Fanta cold-drink bottle on the following page (*note: the scale is only accurate on this shaped bottle*).

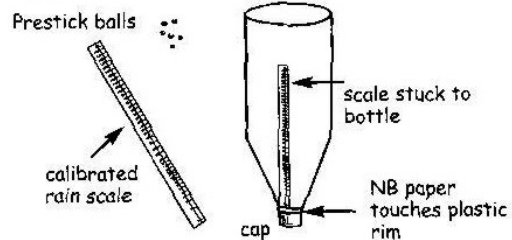
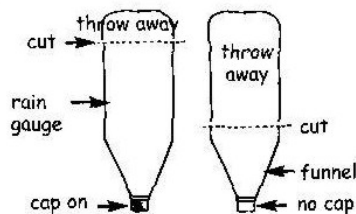
You will need:

- Two empty 2-litre Fanta bottles
- Craft knife or scissors to cut the bottles
- A photocopy of the rain scale at 100%
- Prestik
- A strong stick
- String
- Fine permanent marker

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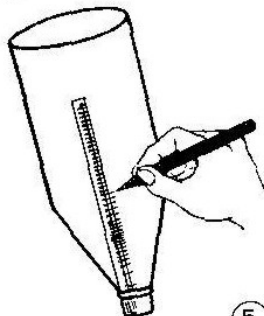


- 1 Keep the cap on and cut off the curved base of one bottle. Remove the cap and cut off the cone-shaped part off the second bottle to make a funnel.

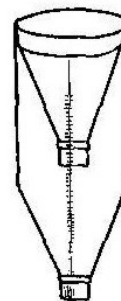


- 2 Cut out the photocopied rain scale. Use tiny balls of Prestick to stick the scale to the rain gauge.

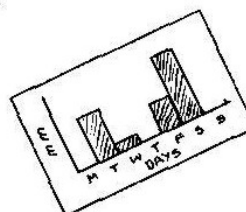
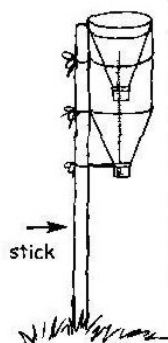
- 3 Use a permanent marker to copy the scale lines and numbers on to the bottle — be exact. Remove the paper.



- 4 Insert the funnel into the top of the gauge. It keeps out debris and reduces evaporation.



- 5 Tie the gauge to a stick. The funnel opening must be above the end of the stick. 'Plant' your gauge where there are no overhanging trees or bushes.



- 6 Take readings and empty the gauge at the same time each day. Make charts (graphs) of the weekly, monthly and annual rainfall. These records become very interesting when you can compare different months and years. Is climate change affecting rainfall in your area?