# Rainwater Harvesting!

#### Aim:

This is an activity that you can try out over the course of a week or two, to capture some of the rainwater that falls on a rainu day, and put it to great use!



P.T.O.

## Background:

As the climate is changing and there are more people on Earth than ever before, the planet's natural resources are under **pressure**. While in our country we often have enough water to go around, in other countries people experience water poverty as they struggle to find enough clean water to **drink**, **wash** themselves with, and water their **crops**.

Even in our country, we are sometimes banned from using our hose pipes when water is running low. Many of the things that we often use tap water for, such as watering the garden, washing the car, and flushing the toilet, can be done safely with

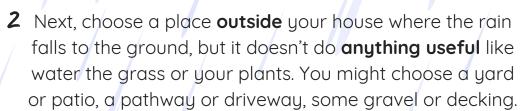
> harvested rainwater instead. That is helpful for the planet, as you won't be using any more water than you need. Here's how...

#### Directions:

Good luck!

**7** First, to get a better understanding of **how much** tap water is used, turn on the tap or run a hose for one minute and collect the water in a bucket. Use a **measuring jug** to measure how much water has been poured in the space of one minute.

2 Next, choose a place **outside** your house where the rain





### Directions (continued):

'ou can

do it!

3 Fill this space with different objects that will collect water once it rains. You should try a mix of different objects, as some might collect water better than others, and you won't find out until it rains! Plastic containers, milk bottles, and jam jars are all good examples of rain catchers. If your object has a wide rim, then more rainwater will fall inside it.

Now your rainwater collection system is all set up!
Every time it has rained, **go outside** and **measure**how much water has been collected in each of your
rain catchers. Which ones are doing **the best** at
collecting water? When you **add up** how much your
rain catchers collect in total, is it **as much water** as
when you ran the **tap** or **hose** for one minute?

You should avoid using anything that is really light, anything that is really light, like a carrier bag, as it might blow away into a neighbour's garden and become litter. If you have a good rain catcher but you're worried rain catcher but you're worried it's too light, try putting a rock or a few pebbles inside it to weigh it down.

Only use objects as rain catchers that aren't important to anyone, in case a bird or a fox to anyone, in case a bird or a few picks them up and carries them picks them up and carries that are away. Never use objects that are special to yourself, or to your friends special to yourself, or to your friends or family, as someone would be sad if it was gone the next day.

Put the rainwater you have collected to great use!
You could use it to wash the car or, on a day when it hasn't been raining, you could water the garden with it.
You could even use this water to flush the toilet (don't pull the

flush the toilet (don't pull the flush, pour your jug of water straight into the toilet instead).

You're saving water to save the planet!

