

# 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 rainy day, and put it to **great use!**



Remember to wash your hands!

## 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:

- 1 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 falls to the ground, but it doesn't do **anything useful** like water the grass or your plants. You might choose a yard or patio, a pathway or driveway, some gravel or decking.



Good luck!

## Directions (continued):

**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.

**4** 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?




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



You should **avoid** using 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 it's too light, try putting a **rock** or a few pebbles inside it to **weigh it down**.

**5** 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, pour your jug of water straight into the toilet instead).

*You're saving water to save the planet!*



You can do it!