

Activity T.1

Making a Rain Gauge



S.T.E.A.M is an abbreviation for Science Technology Engineering Art and Maths and is an integrated approach to learning that encourages learners to make connections between concepts and thinking which can be applied to solving real world problems.

Whether you are new to STEAM or not, these easy to manage projects all about water will encourage critical thinking skills and scientific processes all while having lots of fun along the way.

Background Information

Cairns drinking water is supplied from Copperlode Falls Dam and Behana Creek. This means our water supply is reliant on consistent rainfall patterns and rain must fall in the dam and creek catchments in order to have an impact on our drinking water supply. Council monitors weather patterns, including rainfall, to determine how much water we're going to have in the future months and what water restrictions may need to be in place. You can also do this at home and use this information to determine how much water you can use. For example, if it's been really dry and there's no rain in sight, we need to use water even more wisely to make sure there's enough water for future dry months. In this activity you get to make a rain gauge to record rainfall at your home.

For this activity you will need:

- 1-2L empty drink bottle
- Stanley knife
(with adult supervision)
- Handout with instructions & ruler
(see separate pdf)

Explore more...

The Bureau of Meteorology website has rainfall records for various locations across Cairns, why not check some out and see how your rainfall readings compare to others in our region.

Think about ways rainfall recordings might be used in other technology or how it could be used at home.

Did you know? the Esplanade is trialing technology that uses rainfall reading and moisture sensors to turn irrigation off. Think about how much water this could save!

REMEMBER We all rely on rain for our water supply so think about ways you can save this precious resources at home.

- Let the rain water the garden for you -
- Take short showers - Use the half flush -