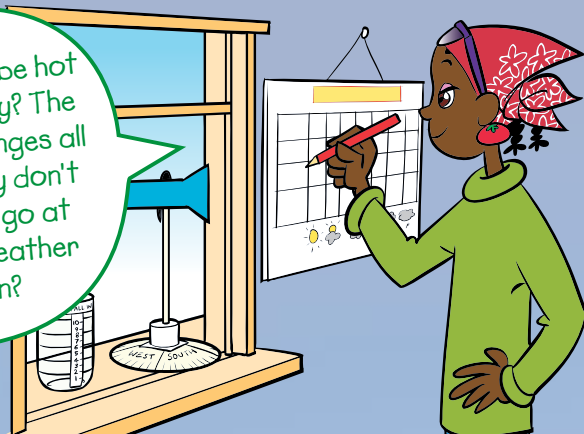


Build your own Weather station

Is it going to be hot or cold today? The weather changes all the time. Why don't you have a go at making a weather station?



You will need: To make the wind vane • piece of card • pencil • scissors • masking tape • pen lid • paper plate • ruler • black marker • plasticine • yoghurt pot • long skewer • compass
To make the rain catcher • plastic bottle • scissors • masking tape • ruler • black marker
You'll also need: • large piece of paper, markers and a ruler to make a weather chart • thermometer

Making the wind vane



First, draw a large arrow shape on the card and cut it out. Use a piece of tape to stick the pen lid to the arrow.



Next, using the ruler, draw one vertical and one horizontal line to divide the paper plate into four parts. Moving from top, clockwise, write North, East, South and West on each part.



Make a ball out of the plasticine and put it in the centre of the plate where the two lines meet. Put the yoghurt pot on top. Tape the yoghurt pot to the plate.



Pierce the yoghurt pot with a skewer, pushing it through the plasticine ball. Pop the pen lid arrow onto the other end of the skewer.



Finally, put your wind vane outside in the garden or on a windowsill outside a window. Ask an adult to use the compass to find where north is. Align your wind vane with the compass points. Your wind vane will spin around. The arrow will point at the direction from which the wind is coming.

Making the rain catcher



First, ask an adult to cut off the bottom half of the bottle. Then cut off the funnel part of the bottle. You can throw away the middle section.



Next, place the funnel part of the bottle upside down into the base of the bottle as shown in the picture. Stick the edges together with tape.



Stick a piece of tape from the top to the bottom of the rain catcher. Using a ruler, draw a line and mark 10 centimetres starting with 0 at the bottom moving up to 10 at the top.









Finally, put your rain catcher outside next to your wind vane. Your rain catcher will tell you how much rain has fallen.



Weather watch

Put the thermometer outside with your wind vane and rain catcher. Make a simple weather chart like the one below. Use your weather station to keep track of how much rain falls, which way the wind is blowing from, and what the temperature is. Mark your findings on the weather chart. Try to check your weather station every day at the same time.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Temperature							
Wind direction							
Rainfall							
Weather							
Weather symbols	 Sunny	 Partly cloudy	 Cloudy	 Thunder	 Rain	 Snow	

Different fruits and vegetables need different weather conditions to grow well. For example, asparagus needs cool weather, while avocados need hot weather.

Can you think of other vegetables and fruits that need hot weather to grow? Top tip: take a look in your local shop to see which vegetables are in season over the summer.