



Water for Free

Activity
Sheet
06

Every year thousands of litres of water falls from the sky. Rainwater is perfect for a variety of uses especially in the garden.



**Never drink rainwater that has come from roofs and other surfaces
- it may be OK for your garden but it is not clean enough for you to drink!**

Rain that falls on your roof is collected in a gutter. The gutter slopes slightly so that the rainwater flows to one end. Here a downpipe carries the rain to a drain in the ground.

Collecting the Rainwater

Instead of letting this rainwater go to drain you can collect it and re-use it to water your school's plants. The simplest way of catching the rain is to use a 'diverter', which takes rain from the downpipe and 'diverts' it into a water butt. The clever thing is that when the water butt is full, the water flows back the other way and down the drain so that the water butt never overflows!

Where Should it Go?

Imagine this is your school (see overleaf). Your Principal has been given a water butt so that you can harvest (collect) rainwater. An adult has kindly offered to fit it for you but needs help in deciding where to place it.

Hint - some things to consider

- Will it cause an obstruction?
- Which down pipe will receive the most rain (hint: the roof with the largest surface area will collect the most rain water).
- Is it close to where it is needed?

Did you know?
A garden hose or sprinkler can use over 500 litres of drinking water an hour. That's almost as much as a family of four will use in a day.

Imagine this is your school!

Take a look at this building and decide the best place for placing the water butt.



Now take a look at your own school. Where is the best location for a water butt?



**For safety reasons water butts must always be securely covered.
Children must be supervised by an adult when viewing water butts.**