



4-H Learn at Home Activity: Rain in a Jar

Materials Needed:

- 1 canning jar, drinking glass or plastic container (anything see-through)
- 1 can of shaving cream or 1 dish sponge
- 1 bottle of food coloring
- Clean, room temperature water

Instructions:

1. Fill your jar or container about $\frac{3}{4}$ full of water.
2. Add shaving cream to fill the rest of the jar. If you do not have shaving cream, place a dish sponge over the top of the jar.
3. Add one drop of food coloring at a time until it seeps through the shaving cream or sponge and creates “rain”.

Reflective Questions:

- What do you think the shaving cream or sponge represents in this experiment?
- What do you think made the shaving cream or sponge “rain”?
- Can you use this model to explain how rain is formed?

Extensions for this activity:

- Draw and label the parts of your experiment.
- Write about what you saw happening in the jar.
- Try the experiment again with more than 1 color of food coloring. Make a prediction, what do you think will happen?

Learn more about cloud and rain science:

- www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/the-types-of-clouds-and-what-they-mean