

My RAIN GARDEN



A Coloring Book About Safer Communities:
Rain Gardens



FEMA

For Teachers, Parents and Guardians



Welcome to our rain garden coloring book! The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has created the **My Rain Garden** coloring book to help you and your young students learn more about how rain gardens can help make your home and community safer.

Rain gardens can be made in areas that normally fill with water during storms. A rain garden is made up of rocks, plants and trees that help manage water when it rains. They act like big sponges to soak up water and help the extra water move back to storm drains and rivers.

This book includes several pages for coloring and learning, as well as directions for activities such as nature hunts and building your own rain garden that can be done with an adult. Share your kid's creations with us at [@FEMA](https://twitter.com/FEMA) on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We hope you and the children in your life enjoy the coloring book!

For more information about other ways to reduce your risk, go to <https://www.FEMA.gov>.

Specific flood-related reading can be found at: <https://www.fema.gov/flood-maps/products-tools/know-your-risk/homeowners-renters/protect-property>

Oh no! It rained and now my yard is wet.
I see a big puddle by my soccer net.



How can I keep this water from making a pond?
I know, a rain garden will help like a magic wand!



I will use the right plants, soil and trees.
The garden will soak up the water with ease!



Now my yard is safer and less likely to flood.
Does your town have too much water and mud?



Glossary



Flood

A flood happens when rising water flows over ground that is usually dry, because it has nowhere else to go. Flooding can happen when there is too much rain or when snow or ice melts too quickly.



Puddle

A puddle is a small pool of water.



Rain Garden

A rain garden is made of plants, trees and stones that help soak up water. Worms, bugs and butterflies can make this their home too.



Rain

Rain is water that falls from clouds in the sky.



Soil

Soil is the earth under your feet. It's made of many different things, like rock, water, air and living and nonliving things.



Soak Up

This is what happens when something takes in a lot of water, like the roots of a plant or a rain garden.

Activity

Going on a Nature Hunt

Did you know some things in nature soak up water and other things don't? To help stop flooding or puddles from forming in your yard or town, it's best to have more things that soak up water.

Let's follow the steps below and go on a nature hunt for some things that we can test.

Things you'll need:

- small bag
- paper plate
- small cup of water
- pencil

1. Find a small bag.
2. Go outside and collect some things in nature like rocks, bark and dirt and put them in your bag to test.
3. Take your bag inside and empty it onto a paper plate.
4. Write down the things you collected below.
5. Then, guess what will happen when water is poured over the things you collected. Will it soak in or run off? Write your guess below.
6. Finally, fill a small cup with some water and pour it over each of the things you collected
7. Write down if the water soaked in or ran off.

Things I Found Outside	My Guess: Soak Up or Run Off?	What Happened?

Now, you know some of the things you need to keep in your yard to soak up water and stop puddles from forming. A yard with no puddles is a safer yard!

Activity

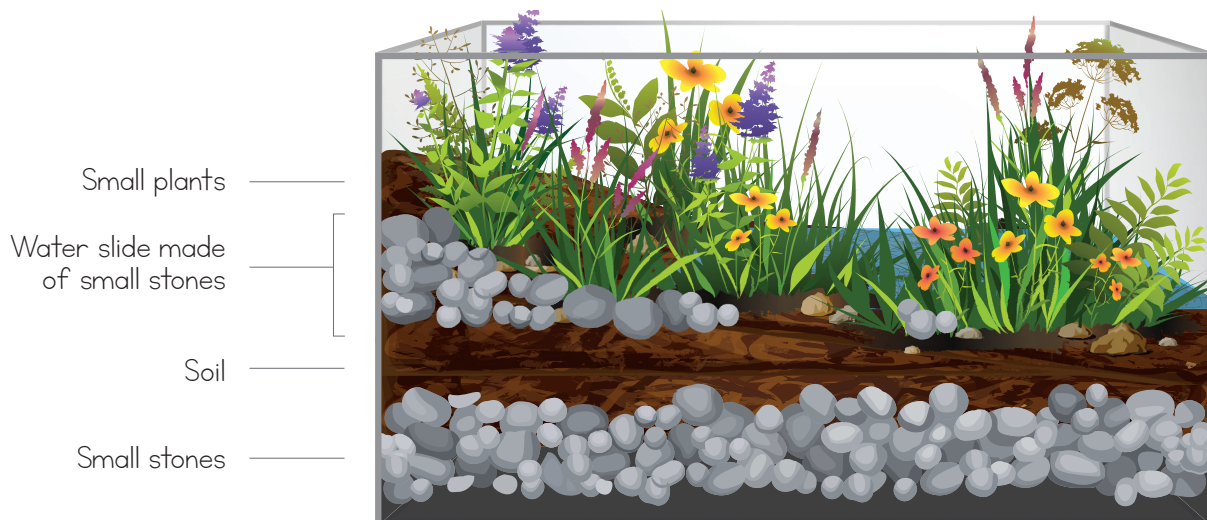
Making a Terrarium Rain Garden

When it rains, the water has to go somewhere. Where does it go when it can't soak into the soil? Why is it important for rain to soak into the soil?

Things you'll need:

- a clear container
- small stones or pebbles
- soil
- little plants
- water
- little toys for decoration (optional)

1. First, add a one inch layer of stones (about the width of a quarter) to the bottom of the container.
2. Then, add soil so one side of the container has soil higher than the other.
3. Next, find the side of the container with the higher soil and put small stones all the way down the hill. This will make a "water slide" and the water will run down the stones.
4. Last, add some little plants along the side of the water slide.



Now, let's see your rain garden work! Slowly pour some water on top of the soil on the high side of the container and watch what happens. Do you see how the water runs down the little stones and into the soil toward the bottom where it soaks in? This is what would happen if you had a rain garden. It would help protect your home from flooding.



For more information, check out:
<https://www.floodsmart.gov/flood>



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