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# The Effect of Acid Rain on Green Plants

This activity requires a few special ingredients and weather (rain), so be sure to plan ahead!

## Materials

- Two clear plastic or glass jars with wide mouths and screw-top covers (peanut butter or mason jars work well)
- Litmus paper
- Litmus paper colour-matching chart for determining acidity
- Two green plants



## What to do

1. Label your jars "A" and "B".
2. In jar A collect rain water as it falls from the sky. Screw on the cover.
3. Fill jar B with regular tap water. Screw on the cover. (Jar B is a control)
4. Dip litmus paper into jar A. Use the colour chart to determine whether the rain water is acidic, alkaline or neutral (pH balanced).
5. Repeat step 3 for the tap water.
6. Take note of your results.
7. If the rain water is found to be acidic, place a few drops each day for five days on live plant leaves. Do the same with the pH balanced alkaline tap water on the leaves of the other plant. Compare the two plants.

## Discussion

What might be the result of frequent acid rain falling on a forest?

