



# RAINY DAYS

DID it rain a lot where you live last week?

Most areas of Tasmania received some heavy falls last Wednesday and Thursday.

Rain is part of the water cycle, and the Sun plays a really important role as well.

The Sun turns moisture from the ground, the ocean and other waterways into water vapour.

This is a gas which disappears into the air.

This vapour rises, cools, and changes into tiny water droplets to form clouds.

The water droplets join together and get larger and heavier.

When they get too heavy, and when other things happen with the winds and air in the atmosphere, the water droplets fall from the clouds as precipitation - rain, snow, drizzle or hail.



Some people like to know how much rain is falling at their home, and measure it with a rain gauge, an example of which is pictured above.

You can make your rain gauge with a large plastic soft drink bottle, some pebbles, masking tape and a permanent marker.

You will also need scissors and a ruler.

Start by cutting the top quarter off the bottle.

Then put the pebbles in the base, enough to stop the bottle falling over in the wind.

Push the top of the bottle, upside down, into the base and tape it into place.

This will provide you with a funnel.

Then stick another length of tape, as straight as you can, down the side of the bottle.

Mark a line above the pebbles, and fill the base of the bottle with water to that base line.

Using the ruler and the pen, mark

centimetre measurements on the length of tape.

You can mark half centimetres as well if you like.

You can then place your rain gauge in an open place in the garden, and monitor how much rain is falling at your home.

You could perhaps keep a record of rainfall by checking the gauge at the same time each day.

You can also find out how much rain has fallen in your area, or research other aspects of weather (temperature, wind speeds etc) by visiting the Bureau of Meteorology website: [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

You will discover lots of information, like maps of rainfall totals for Tasmania, pictured right.

If building a rain gauge does not interest you, you might like to research how much rain fell in your city or town last year.

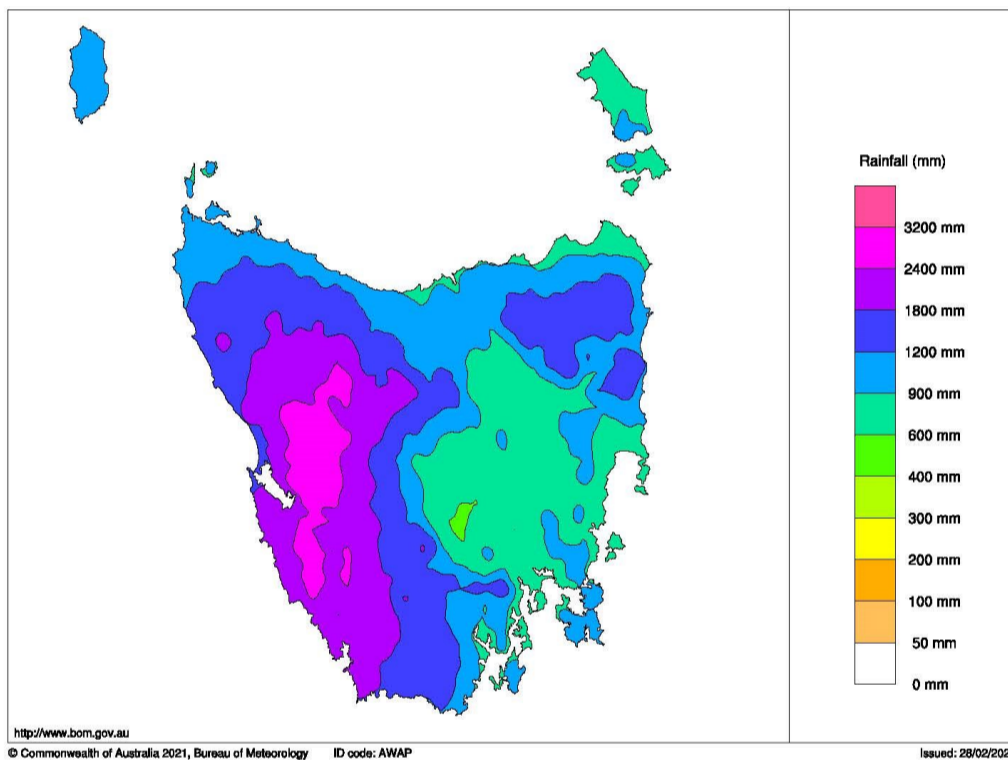
Perhaps make a list of the wettest and driest places in Tasmania in 2020, and see how the area where you live compares.

Mount Read on the West Coast was the wettest, with an overall rainfall of 3528.8 millimetres for the year.

Children's University Tasmania members can earn stamps in their passports for these challenges, at the discretion of their school coordinator.



Tasmanian Rainfall totals (mm) 1 March 2020 to 28 February 2021  
Australian Bureau of Meteorology



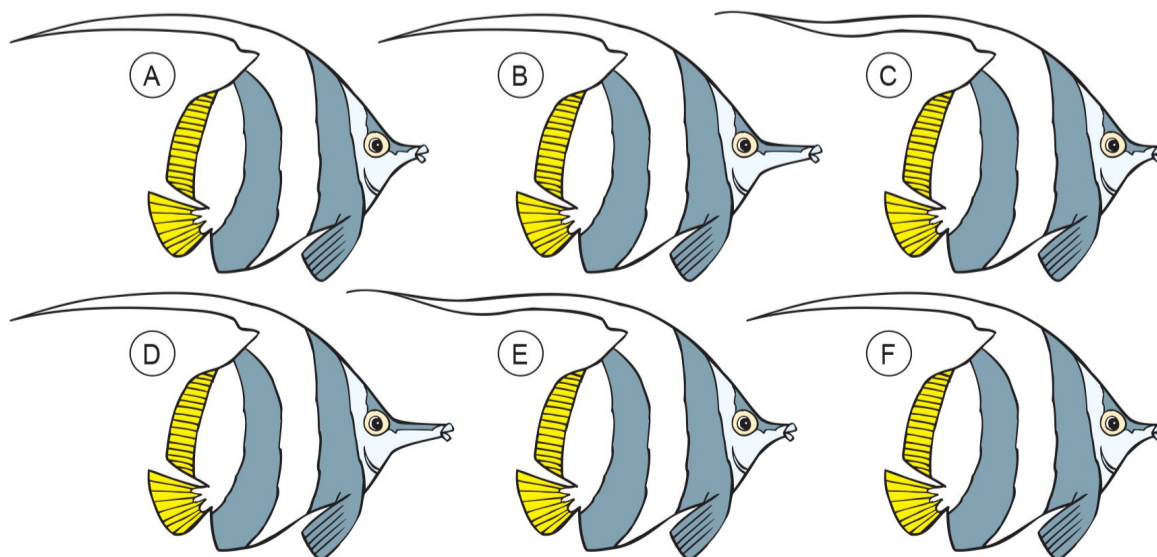
IMAGES: iStock/ skalapendra/ Worleddit

## Mixed up BANNERFISH

Three pairs of bannerfish are mixed up. Each pair is slightly different from the others. Match the pairs then check the solution below!

### DID YOU KNOW?

Bannerfish are found in tropical waters throughout the west and central Pacific Ocean. They are about 25cm long.



SOLUTION: A+F, B+D, C+E

Artwork: [www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/](http://www.johnpollyfarmer.com.au/)