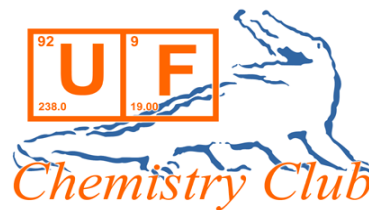


# University of Florida Chemistry Outreach Program

## See a Raindrop



*Estimated Time:* 15 mins. + 15 mins. clean-up

*Topics:* Weather

**Introduction:** One raindrop never ruins a person's day, it takes a group effort to make a rainy day. When we see raindrops, we usually see them in a mass, but what does one raindrop look like?

**Objective:** This lab is designed to teach students the basic properties of a raindrop.

**Materials:**

-Plastic weigh boat	-Fine mesh sieve
-Ruler	-Test tubes
-Flour	-Plastic pipette
-Styrofoam bowl	-Rainwater

**Safety:** -Remind students there is NO eating or drinking in the lab.

### **Procedure:**

1. Fill a weigh boat with flour.
2. Use the ruler to smooth out the top, so that it is level.
3. In a small test tube take a small amount (5mL or less) of rainwater from the squirt bottle.
4. With the plastic pipette place **15-25 drops** on the flour.
5. Set the sieve over the Styrofoam bowl. Carefully pour the flour from the lid into the bowl. Shake the sieve gently.
6. Dump the little lumps out onto the table and measure them.

### **Discussion:**

1. What are the little lumps you measured?  
*The little lumps are "preserved" raindrops.*
2. What is the average size of a raindrop? Which was the smallest in the class and which was the largest?  
*Remember, the world's biggest raindrop was smaller than your baby fingernail.*
3. What are raindrops so small?  
*Most raindrops are relatively small because big ones usually break apart as they fall.*

**Source:** This lab is a modified version of a similar activity from Weather Wiz Kids