



RAINFORMA

LIVING LEARNING GARDEN

TEACHER RESOURCE

TURN RAINWATER INTO A LIVING CLASSROOM

A practical, hands-on resource to help teachers use a RainForma rain garden as a real-world learning tool for water cycles, filtration, sustainability, plants and biodiversity.

OBSERVE

See rainfall and water movement in action.

MEASURE

Collect real data from your own school grounds.

DISCOVER

Explore plants, habitat and biodiversity over time.

Designed for flexible use across primary and secondary year levels

Use individual activities, build a short inquiry unit, or revisit the garden throughout the year to track seasonal change.

HOW THE RAIN GARDEN BECOMES A LEARNING TOOL

FOLLOW THE JOURNEY OF A DROP OF WATER

1

ROOF

Rain lands on the school roof.

2

DOWNPIPE

Gutters direct runoff.

3

RAINFORMA

Water enters the rain garden.

4

FILTER + PLANTS

Media and plants interact with water.

5

OUTLET

Water leaves via a controlled outlet.

Five learning lenses

The same working rain garden can be explored from different curriculum perspectives. Choose the lens that best suits your students and current topic.

WATER CYCLE

Trace rainfall, runoff, infiltration and evaporation.

- Ask: Where does the water go?

FILTRATION

Explore how water moves through planted filter media.

- Ask: What changes as water passes through?

SUSTAINABILITY

Investigate how infrastructure can work with natural systems.

- Ask: How could our school manage water differently?

PLANTS

Observe growth, flowering, roots and seasonal change.

- Ask: How do plants respond to wet and dry periods?

BIODIVERSITY

Survey insects, birds and other small organisms.

- Ask: Does habitat change what we can find here?

ACTIVITY 1 | SCHOOL WATER DETECTIVE

1 Map how water moves around your school

A simple field activity that turns the school grounds into a water-catchment investigation. Students observe where rainfall lands, how it is collected and where it travels.

TEACHER SET-UP

TIME	30-45 minutes
BEST TIMING	After rain or during a wet-weather unit
MATERIALS	Clipboard, pencil, school map or blank paper
SUITABLE FOR	Pairs or small groups

Student challenge

Walk around the school and identify roofs, gutters, downpipes, drains, paved areas, gardens, grassed areas, places where water pools and the RainForma garden. Draw arrows to show how you think water moves across the site.

- | | |
|--|---|
| ☐ Roof surfaces | ☐ Garden beds |
| ☐ Gutters | ☐ Grassed areas |
| ☐ Downpipes | ☐ Pooling / low points |
| ☐ Stormwater drains | ☐ RainForma inlet |
| ☐ Paved areas | ☐ RainForma outlet |

Discussion prompts

- What happens to rainwater that lands on hard surfaces?
- Which parts of the school slow water down - and which speed it up?
- How has the RainForma garden changed the journey of water at this location?

EXTENSION

Ask students to mark one additional location where another rain garden might be useful, then explain why they chose it.

ACTIVITY 2 | RAINFALL + FILTRATION LAB

2 Turn rainfall into an investigation

Use real rainfall events to make predictions, collect observations and compare what students expected with what actually happened.

BEFORE RAIN

Make a prediction: How much rain do we expect? Where will water enter the garden? Will water become visible at the surface? How long might it remain?

- Record your prediction.

AFTER RAIN

Observe the inlet, planted surface and outlet. Note where water is visible, how the soil/media looks and any changes to plants or surrounding surfaces.

- Compare prediction vs observation.

Rainfall observation log

DATE	RAINFALL	INLET	GARDEN SURFACE	OUTLET	NOTES

INQUIRY QUESTIONS

- Does the garden respond differently to light rain and heavy rain?
- What evidence can we see that water is being slowed or temporarily stored?
- How might filter media and plant roots influence the movement of water?
- What extra data could we collect to make our investigation stronger?

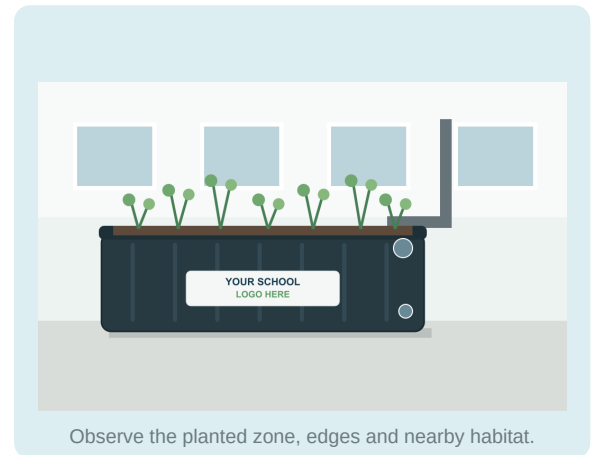
ACTIVITY 3 | LIVING GARDEN BIODIVERSITY SURVEY

3 Track how the garden changes over time

The rain garden is a living system. Repeated observations help students notice patterns in plant growth, flowering, insect activity, weather and seasonal change.

What to look for

- New shoots and leaf growth
- Flowers, seed heads and seasonal change
- Bees, butterflies and other insects
- Birds and other visiting wildlife
- Signs of soil moisture or dryness
- Changes after rain or hot weather



Monthly biodiversity record

DATE / WEATHER

PLANTS FLOWERING

INSECTS OBSERVED

BIRDS / OTHER WILDLIFE

WHAT CHANGED?

BIG QUESTION

Has creating this planted rain garden changed the number or variety of living things students can observe in this part of the school?

TEACHER PLANNING | USE IT YOUR WAY

ONE RAIN GARDEN - MANY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The RainForma Living Learning Garden can support short observations, structured investigations and longer-term student projects. Use the ideas below as a starting point and adapt them to your year level and learning goals.

SCIENCE

Water cycle, soils, ecosystems, plant biology and observation.

MATHEMATICS

Rainfall data, measurement, graphs, averages and comparison.

GEOGRAPHY

Water resources, landscapes, catchments and human impacts.

DESIGN + TECHNOLOGIES

How engineered and natural systems work together.

SUSTAINABILITY

Resource use, environmental choices and school action.

COMMUNICATION + ART

Photography, signage, nature drawing and student presentations.

A simple year-round rhythm

TERM 1

Baseline map + first plant survey

TERM 2

Rainfall and filtration investigation

TERM 3

Biodiversity survey + data comparison

TERM 4

Student presentation: Our Rain Garden Story

RAINWATER. REIMAGINED.

Rain Garden Supply | Design | Installation | Learning