

Recording Raindrops



Did you know that raindrops actually look like mini hamburger buns when they fall from the sky? How big do you think they are? To find out, try the following activity to catch some raindrops on a rainy April day and then measure and record your data in a spreadsheet. Fill a baking pan with an inch of flour and then take it out in the rain for 1 or 2 minutes. Bring your pan indoors and then take a look at your raindrops by using a metal sieve to remove a dough pellet. Measure the diameter and record up to 10 raindrops in a spreadsheet. Make a bar graph of your results. What was the measurement of the largest raindrop? smallest? Were any the same or close to the same?

Adapted from Family Fun Magazine, April 2002

April Showers Spreadsheet



How many days of April Showers do you think this month will bring? Begin this activity by making a prediction. Write down the number of days you think will rain within the heading of a new spreadsheet. The title of this chart can be "April Showers Spreadsheet" and then underneath that you can write your name and your prediction. Starting in Column B, row 1, place all the dates in April. Now in Column A, row 2 put "Yes" and in row 3 put "No". As each day comes along in the month take note of any precipitation that takes place. Mark your spreadsheet with a "1" in either the "yes" or "no" cell for each date. When the month is complete and you are finished with your data gathering, total up the data in rows 2 and 3. Use your table to answer the following questions:

- How many rainy days were there?
- Was your prediction right? If not, how close were you?

Knowing what you now know, how many days would you predict for April 2008? Why?