



BUILD AN OCTOPUS RAIN BARREL

ACTIVITY



BACKGROUND: Rain barrels are a great sustainable way to keep your garden hydrated while saving on water costs, which makes them a great environmental choice. It doesn't mean they have to be purely functional. Here's a fun way to add some personality to your school's rain barrel!

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Large plastic garbage can with a lid
- Drill
- Spigot
- Metal washer
- Rubber washer
- Tube of non-toxic, waterproof adhesive
(capable of adhering to plastic)
- Landscaping fabric
- 8 Plastic gutter downspout tubes
- Non-toxic, waterproof paint
- Hose clamp

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Drill a hole near the bottom of the garbage can. Use a drill bit that's slightly smaller (or the same size) as your spigot.
2. Add the metal and rubber washers to the threaded end of the spigot. Apply a thin line of waterproof adhesive to the back of the rubber washer. Insert the spigot into the drilled hole.
3. Cut a large circle of landscaping fabric and place it over the top of your rain barrel before you put the lid back on.
4. Drill some good-sized holes in the top of your rain barrel to allow water in. Make sure you poke holes in your landscaping fabric as well.
5. Paint and decorate the rain barrel and downspout tubes in colours of your choosing.
6. Once the paint is dry, attach the downspout tubes as octopus legs using waterproof adhesive. The legs are decorative but make the rain barrel look fun!

