

# Measuring temperature

**UNIT:** Degrees ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

**EQUIPMENT:** Thermometer



*Use your thermometer to measure:*

- a. The air temperature
- b. The water temperature.

Air temperature varies by season and time of day but water temperature is more stable. It is an interesting exercise to ask students to predict what each temperature will be; will the water be cooler or warmer than the air ?

## Air temperature

Measure your air temperature at your collection site while you're in the shade.

*You might like to use a weather app for the air temperature at or near your site*

## Water temperature

You should measure the temperature of the water sample soon after you collect the sample. You can measure it in the sample bucket/bottle.

1. Place the thermometer in the sample and swirl gently.
2. Leave for about 30 seconds to ensure you get an accurate result.
3. Record your result on your *water quality data sheet* or directly into the River Detectives website.

**Note:** *You do not rate the water temperature. However it is important to measure it as it can speed up or slow down chemical reactions that take place in the water.*