Precipitation Data Collection

Setting the Precipitation Data:

1. Go to the NOAA Climate at a Glance website, http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/
2. Make sure the **U.S.** tab is selected.
3. Choose **Precipitation** in the **Parameter** pull down menu.
4. Choose **Annual** in the **Time Scale** pull down menu.
5. Skip the **Month** menu.
6. Set the **Start Year** to **1950** and the **End Year** to **2014.**
7. Choose **Maryland** in the **State/Province** pull down menu.
8. Choose **Baltimore** in the **Climate Division/City** pull down menu.
9. Click the blue **Plot** icon.
10. Scroll down to view the graph and chart of the data.

Capturing the Precipitation Data:

11. Using your mouse, highlight the data by clicking the first line of data and dragging to the bottom of the table (Do not include the headings).
12. Copy the data.
13. Open a new worksheet in Excel (if not already open).
14. **Paste** the copied precipitation data into Excel.
15. Stretch **column A** out so the start and stop dates are visible.
16. Delete **columns C and D**.
17. Create a header for column A and B by inserting a new row above the first line of data. Highlight the entire first row, select **Insert - - - Rows** from the main menu bar. A new row should appear above the data.
18. In box 1A type in **Year** and in box 1B type in **Precipitation in Inches.**
19. Sort the data in descending order (newest to oldest).
    a. Highlight columns A and B.
    b. Go to **Data --- Sort** on the main menu bar.
    c. In the **Order** category select **Z to A**.
20. Insert **yr** behind each year in column A.
    a. Select column A.

      b. Select **Edit --- Replace** from the main menu bar.

      c. In the **Find what: box** enter **12**.

      d. In the **Replace with: box** enter **12yr.**

      e. Click **Replace All**.

21. Click **OK** on the message box that appears.

22. Fix the third line of data for 2012 to match the other data (remove the extra "yr"s).

23. Delete the **inches symbol (")** behind each precipitation amount.

      a. Select column B.

      b. Select **Edit --- Replace** from the main menu bar.

      c. In the **Find what: box** enter **"**.

      d. In the **Replace with: box** do not enter anything (leave blank)**.**

      e. Click **Replace All**.

24. Click **OK** on the message box that appears.

25. Your data should now appear like the example below:

201401 - 201412yr	52.59

26. Save your data to your drive.