

Magically Dry Paper

Your friends and family will never believe that this is possible and that's what makes it so magical. Plus we'll find out how it works too!

What do I need:

- Container of water
- Glass
- Piece of paper
- Ping pong ball (optional)

How do I do it?

STEP 1 - Fill up your container with water.

STEP 2 - Scrunch up your piece of paper and squash it inside your glass.

STEP 3 - Turn your glass upside down and submerge it in the water.

STEP 4 - What's going on?!?

STEP 5 - Bring your glass to the surface and check that your paper is magically dry.

STEP 6 - Pop your ping pong ball in the glass, turn it over and submerge it within the water.

STEP 7 - Keep a close eye on both the ping pong ball and the water level and try and figure out what's going on!

What's going on?

Everyone seems to think that the paper is going to get drenched but why doesn't it?

Well, your 'empty' glass isn't really empty. It's full of air. So when we turn the glass upside down the air can't get out and so 'protects' the paper from the water. Can you see when you push your glass down to the bottom of the tank the air gets 'squashed'?!

This one is all to do with pressure. Your 'empty' glass is actually full of air and so when we turn it upside down and submerge it the air has nowhere to go. The air forms a barrier between the water and our magically dry paper!

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

- How deep could you push your glass and still keep the paper 'magically dry'?
- How can we tell if an object will sink or float?
- What other (safe!) objects could you test out?

