

# The Power of Pressure

Here are two activities to demonstrate the “POWER” of air pressure.

SCIENCE  
WEEK

9-16 NOVEMBER 2014

THE  
POWER  
OF SCIENCE

## CAN YOU DO THE CAN FLIP?

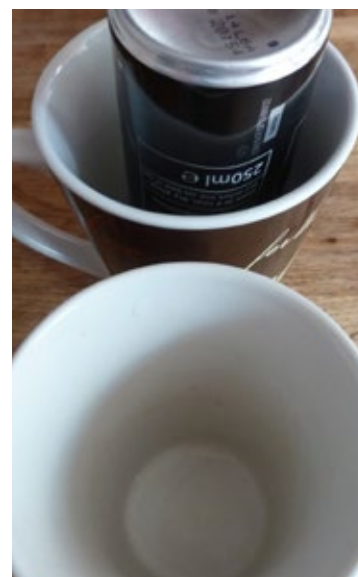
### YOU WILL NEED

Two mugs or lab beakers, an aluminium fizzy drink can, (it may take trial and error to find the right sized can and mug), patience, a drinking straw (optional), a hairdryer (optional).

### BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

*Feel free to experiment!*

1. Empty the can!
2. Place the empty can in one of the mugs.
3. Line up the other mug alongside.
4. Blow out gently into the space between the can and the wall of the mug.
5. Repeat until you can flip the can so it lands upside down in the other mug.
6. (Prepare to amaze your family with your new party trick!).



### INVESTIGATE

- Does it matter which way the can faces before you start?
- Is it better to leave a big or a little space between the can and the mug?
- Can you control the distance and direction taken by the can as it flips?
- What happens if you use a straw to blow the air into the space?
- What happens if you blast it with air from a hair dryer?
- Would it work with an empty “tin” can?

### WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Your breath is causing a change of air pressure that lifts the can. It is the same effect that makes it possible for airplanes to fly.

### EXPLORE MORE...

Have more fun with air pressure at <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/ping-pong-pressure>