

# Make a Ping Pong Ball Float

Did you know that the air that you breathe every day is considered a “fluid”? Daniel Bernoulli is a famous scientist who studied fluids, including air. This experiment will show you how air pressure allows an object to fly.



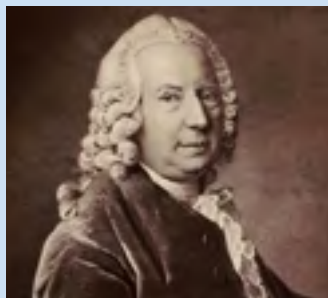
## What you need:

- One ping pong ball
- One empty plastic water bottle, juice bottle or soda bottle
- Scissors

## How to:

1. Ask an adult to help you cut the bottom 2/3 off a plastic bottle.
2. Place the ping pong ball into the bottle neck.
3. Hold the bottle top above your face and mouth like a funnel.
4. Blow into the bottle to try to blow the ping pong ball out of the bottle.

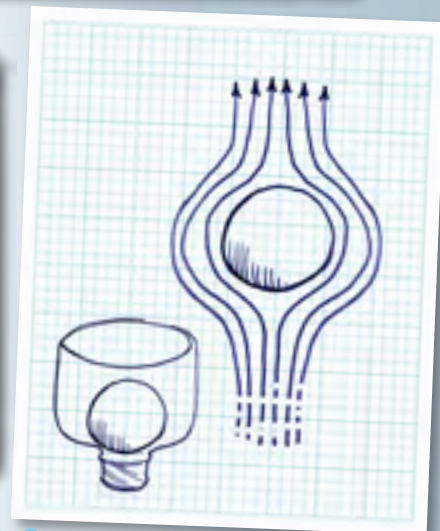
## Fun Fact



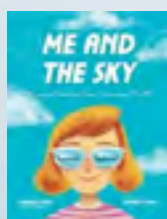
in 1738, a mathematician and scientist named Daniel Bernoulli studied the phenomenon of how air moves around an object. He discovered that as air moves around, it creates different pressures on that object. Faster air means less pressure, and slower air means more pressure.

## What's happening?

Bernoulli demonstrated that a stream of air will flow around the spherical shape of the ping pong ball and will trap it inside the stream. If you have enough space, go ahead and swing your arm through the air. You can feel air as you do this because air moves like water. When air flows over an object it creates pressure. If the pressure is higher on the bottom, it will push an object up.



Related Books:



*Me and the Sky*  
by Beverley Bass,  
Pioneering Pilot



*Planes! (and Other Things That Fly)*  
by Bryony Davies



*Ask a Pilot: A Pilot Answers Kids' Top Questions About Air Travel*  
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