



MAKE YOUR OWN BAROMETER

Want to know if the air pressure is changing?
Find out by making this handy tool.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Balloon
- Glass jar
- Scissors
- Rubber band
- Tape
- Drinking straw
- Index Card
- Pencil

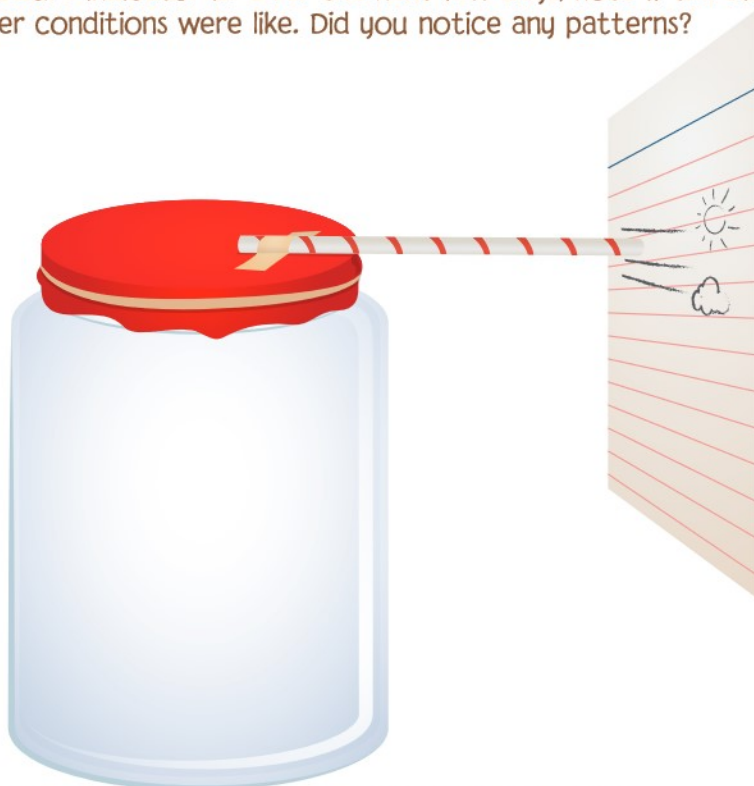


HOW TO DO IT:

1. Stretch the balloon out by blowing it up and releasing the air. Use the scissors to cut the balloon in half – you can discard the neck of the balloon.
2. Take the large balloon piece and stretch it across the mouth of the glass jar. Use the rubber band to attach the balloon to the jar, creating an airtight seal.
3. The straw will be your air pressure indicator. Make sure that the straw is no more than halfway on the balloon lid of the jar. Tape the straw onto the balloon.
4. Now you can start recording weather data with your new barometer! Tape the index card onto a wall or other surface. The straw air pressure indicator should gently touch the center of this card.
5. Use the pencil to mark where the air pressure indicator is. Over the next few days, note if the straw moves up or down and what the weather conditions were like. Did you notice any patterns?

WHY THIS WORKS

As the outside air pressure changes the balloon lid will move up (low air pressure outside, higher air pressure in the bottle, straw moves down) or down (high air pressure outside, lower air pressure in the bottle, straw moves up). Weather changes with the air pressure – lower air pressure is usually an indication of stormy weather.



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