



## FLOATING PUMPKIN

### SCIENCE SAFETY

PLEASE follow these safety precautions when doing any science experiment.

- **ALWAYS** have an adult present.
- **ALWAYS** wear the correct safety gear while doing any experiment.
- **NEVER** eat or drink anything when performing any experiment.
- **REMEMBER** experiments may require marbles, small balls, balloons, and other small parts. Those objects could become a **CHOKING HAZARD**. Adults are to perform those experiments using these objects. Any child can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Keep uninflated or broken balloons away from children.

### INGREDIENTS

- Hair Dryer
- Styrofoam Pumpkin

### INSTRUCTIONS

**STEP 1:** Turn the hair dryer to the lowest setting and point the stream of air upward.

**STEP 2:** Place the pumpkin into the stream of air and observe. Provide evidence of the effects of balance and unbalanced forces on the motion of the pumpkin.

**STEP 3:** Turn the hair dryer to the highest setting and point the stream of air upward.

**STEP 4:** Place the pumpkin into the stream of air and observe. Compare the effects of the different strengths of air flowing from the hair dryer, on the motion of the pumpkin.

### EXPLANATION

The stream of air, flowing from the hair dryer, forces the pumpkin upward. Gravity pulls the pumpkin downward. Where the forces balance, the pumpkin floats. The fast stream of air, flowing around the aerodynamic pumpkin, creates a lower pressure, directly around the pumpkin. The higher pressure, surrounding the pumpkin, forces the pumpkin into the stream of air.



### SCIENCE BACKGROUND

A force is a push or pull, which can cause an object to be in motion. Pushes and pulls can have different strengths and directions. Each force acts on one particular object and has both strength and a direction. An object at rest typically has multiple forces acting on it, but they add to give zero net forces on the object. Forces that do not sum to zero can cause changes in the objects speed or direction of motion. Motion is a change in position. The mass of an object affects the objects motion. An object with more mass requires a greater force to put the object in motion. Speed is how far an object moves over a specific period of time. An object moving at a greater speed changes position faster than an object moving at a slower speed. Inertia is the tendency of an object to resist change.

### I CAN STATEMENTS

- ✓ I can plan and conduct an investigation to compare the effects of different strengths or different directions of pushes and pulls on the motion of an object.
- ✓ I can plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence of the effects of balanced and unbalanced forces on the motion of an object.

### NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS CONNECTION

**K** – Forces and Interactions: Pushes and Pulls I Cause and Effect  
**3** – Forces and Interactions I Patterns