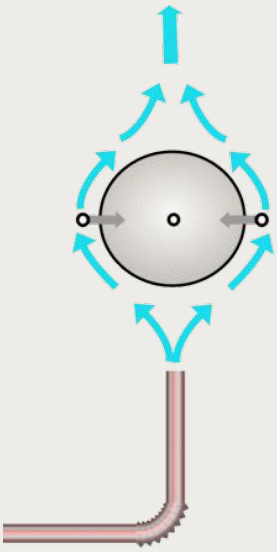
Bernoulli Coin Trick

Students will experiment with the Bernoulli Principle using a quarter and small piece of paper.

6th - 8th Grade

Materials

- Quarter
- Straw
- 1 inch square piece of paper



Bernoulli's principle says that a moving stream of air - or any other fluid - has lower pressure than the still air around it. This can create some very interesting effects!

The Setup

Place a 1-inch square of paper in the palm of your hands. Hold a quarter, face up between your thumb and forefinger, about an inch above the paper square.

The Challenge

How can you get the paper square to stick to the coin without touching the paper square?

The Trick

Use the straw to blow a strong and steady stream of air straight down onto the top of the quarter. This takes a little practice, but the paper square should rise toward the underside of the coin and "stick" there as long as you continue to blow.

Exploring Further

This video shows how you can make a ping pong ball levitate using the same principle you used for the coin trick.

prime time PALM BEACH COUNTY
Dedicated to Quality Out-of-School Time

SOUTH FLORIDA SCIENCE CENTER AND AQUARIUM

Children's Services Council PALM BEACH COUNTY
Healthy. Safe. Strong.