

Air Pressure and Cyclones - PPP

Go on to the Bureau of Meteorology website (<http://www.bom.gov.au/cyclone/about/names.shtml>) and find out what the name of the next tropical cyclone in Australia will be. Are any of the names on the list the same as members of your family?

Cyclones form around areas of low pressure. You can create a low pressure environment in a bottle with some simple equipment you'll find at home. You'll need an adult to help you with this activity - they may have seen this done before - no spoilers!

Materials

- Boiled egg, peeled
- Glass bottle with a wide neck
- Matches
- Strip of paper (about 10cm)

Method

1. Ask an adult to light the strip of paper then put it in the bottle.
2. Quickly put the boiled egg on top of the bottle, sealing the bottle and observe what happens.



What's going on?

The paper burning is using up the oxygen in the bottle which creates an area of low air pressure. Because the egg is sealing the neck, this creates a vacuum which sucks the egg into the bottle. Did you notice that the burning paper went out before the egg dropped in? This is due to all of the oxygen being used up - fire needs oxygen to burn.