

Lesson Plan: So You Think Air is Nothing?

Area: Physical Science

Age Group: 4th-5th Grade

Supplies Needed:

- A Glass
- Piece of Paper towel
- Sink full of water

Introduction:

- Ask students to fill in the blank: Air takes up as much space as a _____.

Demonstration:

- Stuff the piece of paper towel in the bottom of the glass so that it will not fall out when you flip it upside down.
- Hold the glass upside down and plunge it into the sink.
- Hold the glass under water for about 10 second and then slowly and steadily lift the glass up, making sure not to tilt it at all.
- Pull out the dry piece of paper towel and show it to the students.

Directions:

- Ask students whether or not they think you can plunge the glass all they way into the sink of water without getting the paper towel wet?
- Have a class discussion of why the paper towel stayed dry.

Follow-Up:

- Brain-pop video!
- Other examples of air taking up space?

Source: <http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/physical19.html>