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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Air takes up space

Air takes up space and it's almost like magic! Fill a bowl with water. Push a paper towel firmly and completely into a glass. Turn the glass upside down and push straight down into the water. Hold the glass, so it doesn't tip over. Look from the side. Notice the paper towel is "under the water". Pull the glass straight back up out of the water. The paper towel remains dry, because the air is trapped in the glass and takes up the space, so no water can get in to get the paper towel wet! If you tilt the glass, the air can escape and the water rushes in to take up the space in the glass. Then, the paper towel does get wet. Try other kinds of paper, like a tissue or newspaper. What paper works the best?

Enjoy and always clean up, when you are done experimenting!



1 Gather supplies



2. Push paper towel firmly into glass



3. Turn glass over & push down



4. Pull out dry paper towel.