

5. Upside Down Glass of Water

Hold water in an upturned glass using only a sheet of cardboard!

Apparatus

A glass
Some card
Water
A mop...maybe



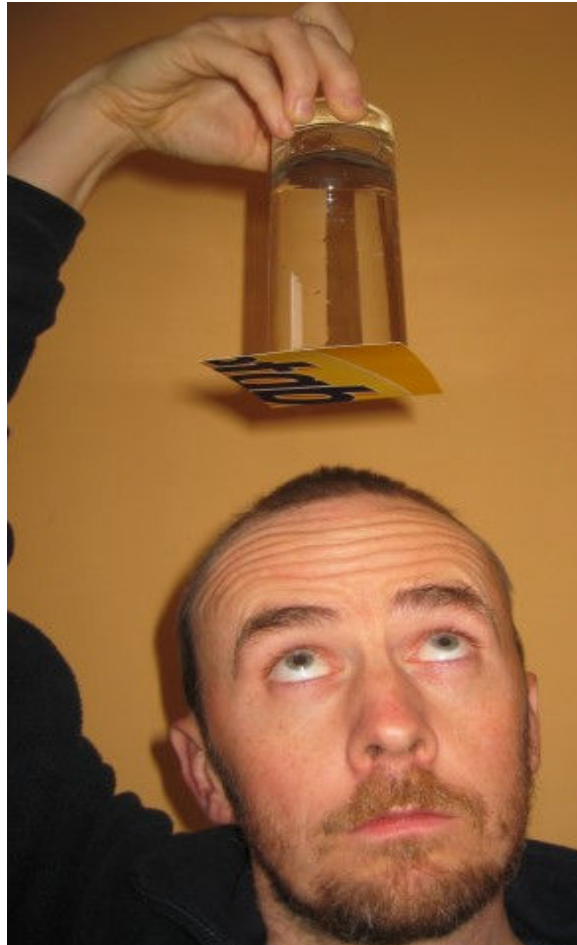
Experiment

Cut out a piece of card that will completely cover the top of the glass, sticking out a centimetre or so beyond the rim. It doesn't have to be round – a rough square is fine.

Almost fill the glass with water and place the card on top of the glass, printed side upwards if there is one. Hold the card in place with a finger, and turn the glass upside-down.

What do you think will happen if you take your finger away?

Take your finger away!



Warning: As the water soaks into the card, it starts to curl away from the rim of the glass. So it won't stay there for ever.....

The weight of the water is pushing down on the cardboard. For the cardboard not to fall, something else must be pushing up on it. Do you know what that might be?