

# Ghost Hand Experiment



GREEN-SCHOOLS  
STAY HOME - WATER

**Age group:** Junior Primary with Adult Supervision

Do some spooky science with this fun and simple experiment investigating displacement.

**Set-up time:** 10 minutes **Wait time:** None

## What do you need?

1. 1 Large (2l) Plastic Bottle – it's best to use a bottle that's mostly one width along the main body i.e. doesn't curve in and out
2. A stanley knife or scissors
3. Help from an adult (essential!)
4. Deep bowl or basin of water
5. Rubber/plastic glove
6. Elastic band



**Warning!** Stanley knives are very sharp and dangerous. Ask an adult to use the knife for you.

## What do you do?

1. Remove the label from your plastic bottle if it has one.
2. To start, ask an adult to carefully cut a circle around the base of the bottle using the Stanley knife or scissors, to remove the bottom of the bottle.



3. Next, ask the adult to carefully cut a circle below the neck of the bottle to remove the upper section. Try to leave as much space as possible from the bottom cut so that your tube is nice and long, and the same width throughout.
4. Place the mouth of the glove over one end of the plastic tube and carefully pull it on, so that just the “hand” of the glove is left flopping. Use an elastic band to secure the glove on the tube.
5. Fill a deep bowl with water. The bowl should be at least as tall as the plastic tube.
6. Slowly lower the open end of the tube into the water until the water reaches the top of the tube...watch as your ghost hand rises up to say hello!



## Explanation:

At the beginning of the experiment, air is filling the plastic tube. As the tube is submerged in water the air has nowhere to go and is forced upward into the glove, the pressure from the air inflates the glove causing it to stand up.

## Links:

See a similar experiment demonstrated here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hICpt56Wj8s>

