

SECTION 1: WHAT IS AIR?

LAB

INTRODUCTION

Air is a difficult concept for children to study. You can not see it, taste it, or smell air. There are a few simple demonstrations and activities that can help students begin to observe air. This lesson provides you with activities to help students conclude that air takes up space and that air can push.

ASSESSMENT ANCHORS ADDRESSED

- S4.A.2.2** Identify appropriate instruments for a specific task and describe the information the instrument can provide.
- S4.C.1.1** Describe observable physical properties of matter.
- S4.C.3.1** Identify and describe different types of force and motion and the effect of the interaction between force and motion.
- S4.A.3.3** Identify and make observations about patterns that regularly occur and reoccur in nature.
- S4.D.1.2** Identify the types and uses of Earth's resources.

PURPOSE

Students complete a variety of activities to show them that air takes up space. Finally, students move on to understand that air can push when they make balloon jets and measure the distance their balloon covers.

MATERIALS

For the class:	For the teacher:
10 tall plastic jars	1 balloon
11 rubber bands	2 liter plastic soda bottle*
11 plastic bags	1 quart jar
Large bags (1 per student)	

*Teacher provides items marked with **