

Pushy things

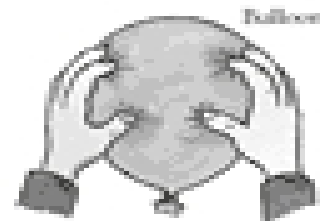
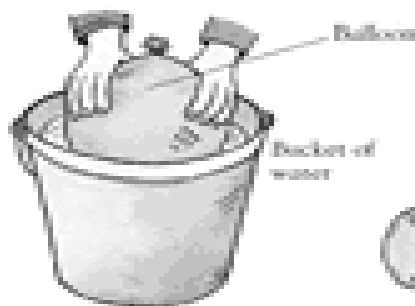


Background knowledge

It may seem strange, but when you push on an object, it always pushes back at you. When you walk on the floor, the floor pushes back at your feet. When you blow air into a balloon, the walls of the balloon push the air back toward your mouth. It is hard to push a ball under water because as you push down, the water is pushing up against the ball. Everything gets "pushy" when pushed on!

Science activity

The picture at the right shows where the pushing forces are when you push down on a ruler placed at the edge of a table. Draw arrows on the other pictures to show the direction of the pushing forces on each of the objects shown.



Science investigation

Push down on a table. How does it feel against your hand as you continue to push? Now find a large rubber band (about 30 cm around). Design and conduct an experiment to see whether heavier objects pull with more force than lighter objects.

