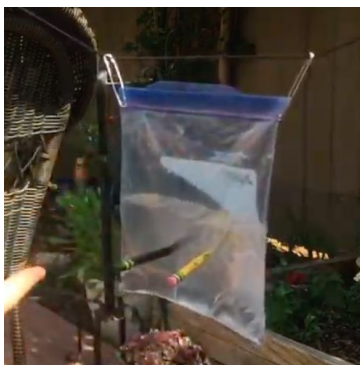




Science at Home



Materials Needed:

- 2 Sharp Pencils
- Ziplock Bag
- Water
- A way to hang the bag (This could be a friend or see the video for another option)

Magic Pencil

Explore the surprising properties of flexible polymers (plastic).

1. Fill a ziplock plastic bag $\frac{1}{2}$ way with water.
2. Sharpen 2 pencils.
3. Find a way to hang the bag. Use a friend or family member to hold it or hang it with a couple of safety pins on a string as you saw in the video.
4. Gently but firmly push the pencil through the bag.
5. What happens?

Science Behind the Science You See

Ziplock bags are made of plastic polymers which are long chains of carbon based molecules. When you push the pencil through the plastic, the long chains separate in a flexible way to allow the pencil to go through but then form again around the pencil making a tight seal.

Brought to you by Whitman College Science Outreach Team. Please visit our website for more fun activities to do at home.

<https://www.whitman.edu/academics/community-outreach/science-outreach>