

LET'S DO CHEMISTRY

Molecules in Motion



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What happens in a vacuum?

Try putting an object (a ball or another toy) in the plastic chamber. Find the matching object and keep that out for comparison.

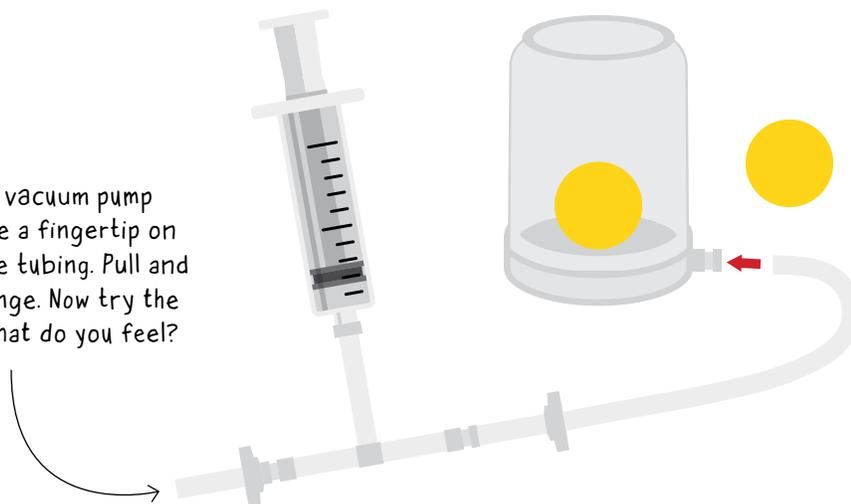
Secure the lid of the chamber and assemble the vacuum pump by attaching the tubing to the bottom of the chamber.



Remove some air from the chamber by pulling and pushing the syringe in and out. Do this several times to remove as much air as possible. What do you notice happening? How does the object in the chamber change as the air is removed?

Disconnect the tubing and syringe from the chamber to quickly let the air swoosh back in. What happens to the object?

To feel the vacuum pump working, place a fingertip on one end of the tubing. Pull and push the syringe. Now try the other end. What do you feel?



Let's keep experimenting! Choose another object and place it into the chamber. Remove the air again to create a vacuum. Try to describe what you see, and why you think it happens. What differences do you notice between the objects that are in and out of the chamber?