

One More Idea: Air Pushes Back

REVEAL AT REVIEW

5 MIN

A ZIP BAG

The point

We proved air is a real thing that takes up space. Here is one more idea: trapped air doesn't just sit there — **squeeze it and it fights your hand**. Air pushes back when it is squeezed, like an invisible spring.

Do it

- 1 Zip a sandwich bag shut with nothing in it but air.
- 2 Squeeze it slowly between both hands. Feel the fight?
- 3 Sit on it (gently!) — the trapped air holds you up like a tiny pillow.
- 4 Ask: “What is pushing back? There is nothing in the bag... or is there?”

Say: “Air takes up space — and when you try to take its space away, it pushes back.”



Fig. 1 — squeeze the bag: the invisible air inside pushes back

What to watch for

- The surprise that “empty” fights back
- Kids discovering they cannot flatten the bag no matter how hard they press

A PEEK AHEAD

ALL THE AIR ABOVE US IS STACKED MILES HIGH — AND IT PUSHES ON EVERYTHING, ALL THE TIME. THAT PUSH HAS A NAME: AIR PRESSURE. A WHOLE LESSON ON IT IS COMING.