

## ACTIVITY!

## Inquire &amp; Investigate



## Ideas for Supplies ▼

- large rubber balloon
- wide-mouthed jar, such as a canning jar
- rubber band
- straw
- tape
- shoebox

## CREATE YOUR OWN BAROMETER

Evangelista Torricelli created the first barometer and used it to see when air pressure was changing. Now it is your turn to make a barometer.

- **Cut the narrow neck off the balloon and carefully stretch it over the mouth of the jar, using a rubber band to hold it in place.** Lay the straw flat on the top of the balloon with its end resting in the middle. Tape it in place.
- **Put the jar into the shoebox with the straw pointing at but not touching the side.** Mark where the straw is pointing on the side of the box. When the straw points up above the starting point, the air pressure is going up. When it points below the starting point, the air pressure is dropping.
- **Check and chart the movement of the straw as it relates to its starting point at the same time twice a day.** Did it point up? Did it stay the same? Did it point down? What does the movement of the straw have to do with air pressure? After you've been tracking the changes in air pressure for several days, check for trends. Does time of day affect air pressure? Does temperature?

To investigate more, when you record the barometric reading, also record the outside temperature on your chart. Do you see any patterns or relationships between barometric pressure and temperature? What were they and what is the correlation?