

Activity: Gravity Meter

Materials

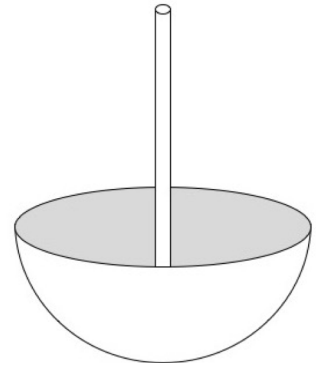
Plastic Easter egg

Small piece of modeling clay

Straw

Procedure

1. Use the round half of a small plastic Easter egg that forms a small "bowl."
2. Roll a piece of modeling clay to form an approximately 1 inch ball and press into the inside bottom of the bowl and insert a straw vertically into the clay (see illustration).
3. Using your finger, pull the straw down so that the top of the straw touches the table and release.



Repeat and record your observations.

Explain your observation.

If the change in the orientation is due to gravity, in what direction is the Earth's gravitational attraction (up, down, sideways) and explain your answer. Put an arrow on the diagram above showing the direction of the Earth's gravitational attraction.

Imagine the same experiment done at the same time on different locations on the Earth. On the globe, diagram the orientation of several of the gravity objects and explain the direction of the force of the Earth's gravity at different locations. Draw arrows showing the direction of the Earth's gravitational attraction.

