



Credit: TopFoto

# How strong is that wind?

This activity involves making a wind monitor from different weights of material. It introduces the idea of measuring the force of wind using arbitrary units, and that wind has energy which can move some things but not others.

## You will need

- Card
- Electric fans
- Paper
- Tissue paper
- Found materials (feathers, pebbles, wood, paperclips, plastic bottles, ping-pong balls, etc.)
- String
- Pencils
- A list of words to describe different winds, e.g. 'gale force', 'strong wind', 'breeze', etc.

## Steps

1

Collect five different objects, making sure they all weigh different amounts.

2

Find a way of spacing the objects so they don't touch and attach them along a piece of string.

3

Secure the string between two table legs and use the fan to try and move the objects.

4

Put the fan on a faster setting and record the objects that move at different wind strengths.

5

Give each object a different name depending on how easily it moved in the wind. You could use words like 'gentle breeze', 'strong wind' or 'hurricane'.

6

Now you have created your own wind tester think about how you could adapt it for the outside by, for example, making it waterproof.

## Analysis/ discussion

**Like moving water in a waterfall, moving air has energy. This energy gives wind its ability to make objects move. The faster the movement of the air, the more it can move other things. How strong is the wind today?**