

Curving wind

Moving air – such as the wind on a breezy day – often seems to “stick” to solid objects, as this experiment shows:

You'll need:

- Short candle in holder
- Matches
- Salt or oatmeal box, large can or other container
- Adult helper

Source: Reeko's Mad Scientist Lab

Try This

1

Put candle on table and ask adult to light it

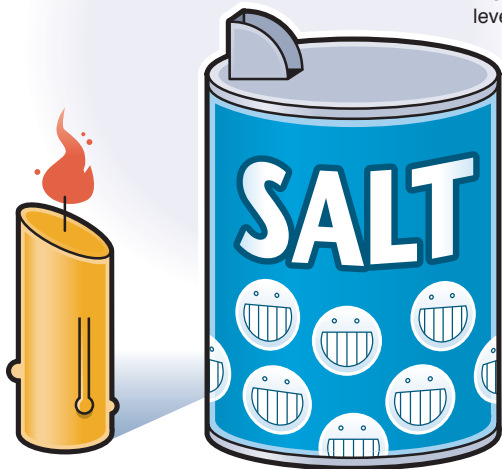
2

Put container on table next to candle

3

Blow on side of container facing away from candle

Blow at same level as flame

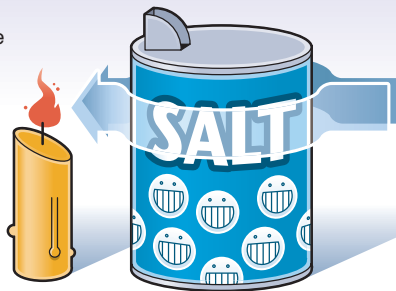


Graphic:
Helen Lee
McComas,
Paul
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What happened?

The candle flickers, and you may be able to blow it out

This is called the “Coanda effect” after a scientist from Romania



Air from your mouth divides into two streams when it hits the container

They flow around both sides, sticking close to the container

Then they join and blow out the candle