

# The Moving Cans

## **The Action**

Two empty pop cans are placed upright, separated by a short distance on a bed of drinking straws. When air is blown between the two cans with a straw, the two cans will come together.

## **Grade Level**

Grade 7 - Force and Motion

## **Materials**

- 10-15 plastic drinking straws
- 2 empty aluminum drink cans

## **Instructions**

- Lay about 10-15 straws about 1-2 cm apart on a smooth table top. Place two empty aluminum drink cans upright on the bed of straws.
- With another straw, strongly blow air between the two cans. The cans should move together.

## **Safety**

No safety concerns.

## **Hints**

The air must be blown directly between the cans and requires fairly strong blowing through the straw.

## **Science Principle**

This activity demonstrates one aspect of Bernoulli's Principle. Moving air has a lower pressure than stationary pressure. This difference creates an imbalance of pressure on the cans; the pressure on the outside is higher than in between. This difference causes the cans to move toward the area of lower pressure.