Tough Newspaper

**What to do:** Place the ruler on the table so that 2 inches (5 cm) projects over the edge. Spread a double sheet of newspaper over the ruler so the paper lies flat along the table edge.

Strike the projecting edge of the ruler as hard as you can.

**What happens:** The newspaper doesn't budge.

**Why:** Air pressure on the paper prevents it from moving. Air pushes down with almost 15 pounds of pressure on almost every inch of surface (1 kg per square centimeter). For an average sheet of newspaper, the total resistance is about two tons.

YOU NEED

- wooden ruler
- table
- newspaper