

CREATE YOUR OWN

Toothpick Torpedo

Suitable for: 4 years and up with parent/caregiver supervision

20-30 MINUTES 

Propel your toothpick through the water like a torpedo.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Shampoo
- Toothpick
- Container filled with shallow water

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Dab some shampoo on the blunt end of the toothpick.
- 2 Place the toothpick into the container of water.
- 3 Observe what direction the toothpick moves in.

WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?

As the shampoo on the end of the toothpick dissolves, it reduces the water's surface tension around it – this releases the water's hold on that end of the toothpick. The water around the other end of the toothpick still has surface tension, so it pulls the toothpick in that direction.

DID YOU KNOW?

A torpedo factory was established in 1942 at Sub Base Platypus. It made and serviced torpedos that were used in the British and Australian Navy fleets.

