Materials

For each group of students

- Straw
- 500 mL of colored water (green, blue, or red)
- Black or blue permanent marker
- 10 sheets of white paper at least 11” x 14” in size
- Tape
- Metric ruler
- Meter stick

Procedure (Student-created procedures may deviate from this.)

1. Draw a line halfway between each end of the straw around the circumference.
2. Write “finger” on one end of the straw.
3. Place a sheet of white paper on the floor and tape it in place.
4. Hold the meter stick vertically with the 0 cm end on the floor, next to the paper.
5. Place your index finger on the end of the straw marked “finger.”
6. Place the other end of the straw in the container of water.
7. Release your index finger, allowing water to flow into the straw.
8. Fill the straw up to the line.
9. Place your index finger back on the end of the straw marked “finger” and remove the straw from the water. This will hold the water within the straw.
10. Hold the straw so the bottom of the straw is lined up with your first drop height on the meter stick.
11. Remove your index finger from the straw, but continue to hold the straw.
12. Measure the distance across the circle (diameter) of colored water using a metric ruler. Measure accurately and quickly because the paper will begin to absorb the water.
13. Record the diameter in the appropriate area on your data sheet.
14. Remove the wet paper and dry the floor completely with paper towels.
15. Repeat steps 3–14 until your data table is complete.