Station 1: Collapsing pop can

Materials

- Aluminum pop can
- Bunsen burner or small propane torch and striker
- Claw holder
- Bucket of cold water
- Oven mitt (or equivalent) and safety glasses
- Metric ruler
- Chart of Barometric Pressure vs. Altitude

Procedure

1. Measure the height and diameter of the can. Make a note of this information on the activity sheet.
2. Put a small amount of water in the bottom of the can. Just enough to cover the bottom.
3. Wearing goggles and an oven mitt, hold the can in the claw over the heat source. Do so until there is a good chimney of steam coming out the opening in the can. This might take a couple of minutes.
4. Quickly invert the can into the bucket of cold water and watch the results.
5. Complete the questions on the activity sheet.