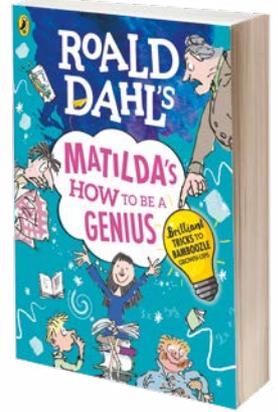


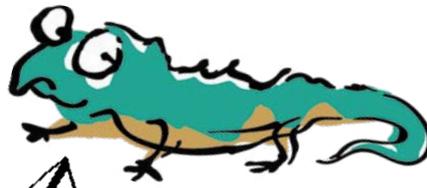
FLOATING FEAT



When **Miss Trunchbull** wrongly accuses her of putting a newt in the water jug, **Matilda** feels a strange sense of power. She uses that power to tip over a water glass without touching it, spilling it on her horrible head teacher!

YOU WILL NEED:

- TISSUE PAPER
- A PEN
- SCISSORS
- A BALLOON
- A WOOLLEN JUMPER OR SOME FAKE FUR
- OPTIONAL: FEATHERS AND SMALL POLYSTYRENE BALLS



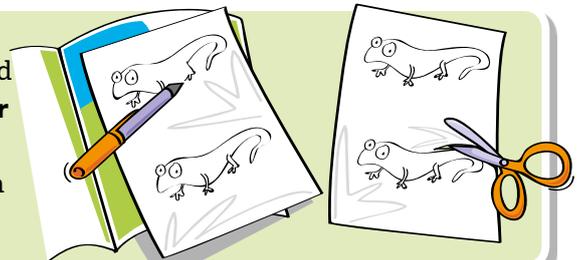
TOP TIP

Use the **same process** to lift up feathers and polystyrene balls.

What to do:

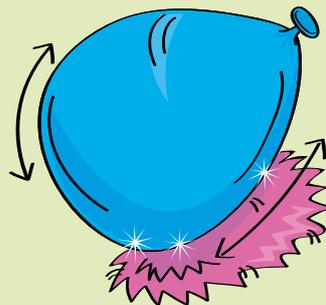
1

Use tissue paper and a pen to **trace over the newt shown above twice**, then cut them out.



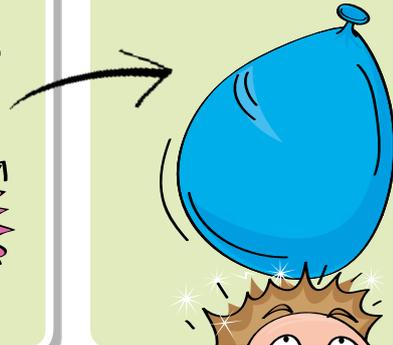
2

Blow up the balloon and **rub it** with the jumper or fake fur for **at least 20 seconds**.



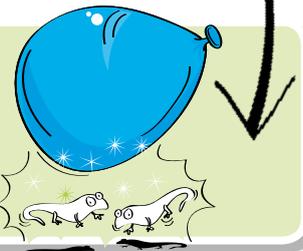
3

Hold the balloon **near your hair**. If you **feel your hair moving towards it**, then the balloon is ready!



4

Hold the balloon **above** the newts. Command, '**Lift up! Lift up!**' and amaze your audience as the newts float up without you touching them!



Matilda's PHENOMENAL FACT

While performing this trick, you discovered **static electricity** - a **stationary electric charge produced by friction** (when two objects rub together). When you rubbed the balloon, **electrons jumped from the material onto it**. These **electrons produced the force** that pulled on the paper newts, lifting them up!



This activity has been taken from the book *Matilda's How to be a Genius* (pages 36–37).