

What do you think will happen if you wring out a wet cloth in space? Astronaut Chris Hadfield performed a simple science experiment designed by high school students to find out.

Do the preparation task. Then watch the video and do the exercises. Remember you can read the transcript at any time.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the number 1–8.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1..... a vice | a. the natural force that causes objects to fall to the ground or pulls them towards a planet |
| 2..... surface tension | b. to twist and squeeze (a wet cloth or hair) to remove water |
| 3..... a washcloth | c. a tool used for holding something tightly |
| 4..... gravity | d. completely wet |
| 5..... soaking | e. to suddenly force (a liquid) out through a small opening |
| 6..... to float | f. a small cloth that you use to wash your face or body; a flannel (UK) |
| 7..... to wring | g. the natural force existing in a liquid that holds its surface together |
| 8..... to squirt | h. to stay in the air or to rest on top of a liquid |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

- | | | |
|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. There is no gravity on board the space station. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. Washcloths at the space station are shaped like hockey pucks. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. Chris does a magic trick with the washcloth. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. Chris wets the washcloth by dipping it in a bag. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. The water stays on Chris's hands. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. Chris wrings all the water out of the washcloth. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. The washcloth unravels in the air. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. The experiment worked. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: reordering

Write a number (1–6) to put these sentences in order.

- The washcloth becomes a tube of water.
- Chris lets go of the washcloth.
- Chris squirts water from a bag onto the washcloth.
- The water stays on Chris's hands.
- Chris wrings out the washcloth.
- Chris opens up the compressed washcloth.

3. Check your grammar: reordering

Write the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions from the video.

1. I'm you some cool washcloths. going to show
.....
2. use I'm going to the washcloth This is for the experiment.
.....
3. this washcloth going to I'm get soaking wet.
.....
4. what happen. see will We're going to
.....
5. I'm water going to this washcloth. squirt into
.....
6. happen? What going is to
.....

Discussion

What experiments would you do if you were on the International Space Station?