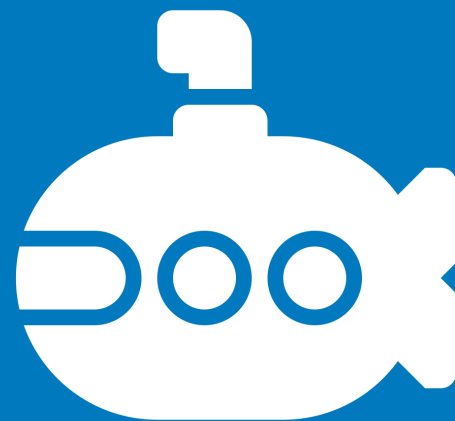



Pressure in the deep ocean

The deeper you go in the ocean, the more you feel the weight of the water above you: this is increasing water pressure. You can see the effect of high pressure on a marshmallow by following the instructions.



Pressure in the deep ocean

- Take a marshmallow out of the pot and draw a face on it. **DO NOT EAT IT!**
- Put one in a syringe and let it fall down to the tip (the opposite end to the plunger).  **DO NOT SQUASH** the marshmallow!
- Make sure that the plunger is at the top, away from the marshmallow.
- Holding your finger tightly over the end of the syringe, slowly push down the plunger and watch what happens to the marshmallow!



The ATLAS research project is looking at areas of the deep sea at depths between 200-2000m. At 2000m depth, the water pressure is about 1,294kg per square inch. That's like a Black Rhino standing on a 50p!

As you increased the pressure, the air inside the marshmallow is squashed, causing the marshmallow to shrink. Many creatures in the deep have fluid-filled bodies with very little air in them. Liquids are much harder to squash than air so this helps them cope with the crushing pressure.



Anemone credit: Formigas Seamount, MEDWAVES(Covadonga Orejas) September 2016



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 678760 (ATLAS). This outcome reflects only the author's view and cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.