

Let's Be Scientists, like Ada Twist!

Build an Aquascope

Scopes are tools that let scientists see things more clearly. Telescopes show us large things that are very far away, like the moon. Microscopes show us very small things that are close, like germs. An aquascope helps us see objects in water. Without it, water is hard to see through because its surface reflects light and distorts the view.

Supplies:

- ✓ Bucket or bath tub with water
- ✓ 2-3 small plastic toys or coins
- ✓ Can opener
- ✓ Clean and empty food can
- ✓ Plastic wrap
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Rubber bands
- ✓ A grown-up to help

Instructions:

1. Using a can opener, carefully remove the bottom of an empty can.
2. Put the can on one end on a flat surface, like a table.
3. Cut a piece of plastic wrap (15 cm x 15 cm) with scissors.
4. Place the plastic wrap over the top of the can and smooth it down. Make sure the plastic wrap is wrinkle-free.
5. Secure the plastic wrap with rubber bands.
6. Fill a bucket or bathtub with water. Drop in small plastic toys or coins. Press the aquascope to the surface of the water and look through the can. Can you see the toys and coins clearly? Try looking without the scope and tell your grown-up if it is the same or different.



This activity is from *Ada Twist's Big Project Book for Stellar Scientists* by Andrea Beaty (2018). Visit www.sno-isle.org to find it and others about Ada's friends – Rosie Revere, Iggy Peck and Sofia Valdez.