

How to Make a Coffee Can Tube Well

Making a Coffee Can Tube Well will demonstrate how people have been able to draw water from the earth for hundreds of years.

What you need:

One cardboard toilet paper roll

One large coffee can

Aquarium gravel

Play sand

Water

What you do: Place the cardboard tube upright in the middle of the coffee can. As you hold the tube, pour a layer of about 2 inches of gravel on the bottom of the coffee can around the outside of the tube. On top of the gravel, pour a second layer of sand until it is about 1 inch below the top of the cardboard tube. As you slowly pour some water onto the sand until the water reaches the top of the sand, notice what happens inside the tube.

What you observe: In a short time, you will see that the water will start to rise inside the tube.

Why does this happen? As groundwater collects under the surface of the earth, water collects in shallow or deep areas, depending on rock formations and the surrounding type of soil. Where such an underground water supply is present, pressure forces water into the well and people can get to the water and use it.