

NANOGIRLS

GREAT SCIENCE ADVENTURES

Here's Nanogirl's simple experiment to illustrate how stars appear to twinkle

INGREDIENTS

A bowl of water
Some tin foil
A pen
A torch or flashlight

METHOD

Take your tin foil and poke some holes into it using your pen.

Next, what you're going to do is take a torch or a flashlight (you might want to turn down the lights for this). Turn your torch on and shine it through the holes you just made in your tin foil.

You should see that the light is consistent - not twinkling.

Now, to make the atmosphere, take the glass bowl of water and place the tinfoil at the back of the bowl.

When you shine the light through the tinfoil and the water you'll see that the light is reflected and refracted and it twinkles.

If you want to see it to its full effect, just swish the water around a little bit so that it's moving.

And that's very similar to what our atmosphere is like when we're on earth looking at the starlight far, far away.

Made possible by the RNZ/NZ On Air Innovation Fund

