

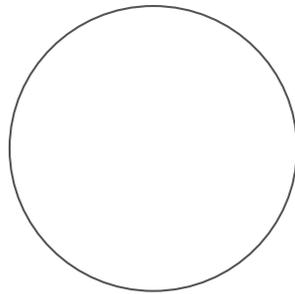
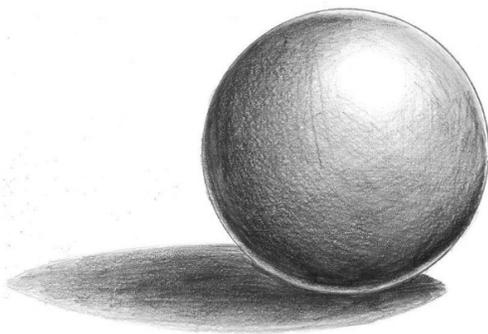
# SUMMER

## ART EXPLORERS

### ACTIVITIES WITH SPHERES

#### Drawing Challenge

A ball is a sphere. Spheres are one of the first things you learn to shade in a drawing class. Use the example on the left to transform your circle into a sphere. To create shadows and light, alternate the pressure you apply to your pencil while shading.



### Week 5 PLAYING WITH SPHERES AND GRAVITY

Each week in June and July, explore the inspiring and extraordinary works of art, exhibitions, and installations at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston! Whether at home or in the galleries, use this guide to take a trip through the Museum and discover different works of art. If you are using this art guide at home, find works of art in the MFAH Collection at [mfah.org/art](http://mfah.org/art).

### GRAVITY IN THE COLLECTION

#### Let's start the conversation!

*Use these steps to talk about art with your family.*

1. We are interacting with Earth's gravity every day of our lives. Think of a few examples in which gravity affects the world we live in.
2. Gravity can affect the way we play with certain toys. One example is a bouncy ball going up and coming back down. Can you think of a few more examples of how we play with gravity?
3. Look around the Museum or your home. Can you spot any examples of art or design that rely on gravity? Example: A decorative water fountain sprays water out and relies on gravity to pull the water down and cycle back through the fountain.

#### Did You Know?

- The Earth is a sphere, but it is not a perfect sphere. When Earth rotates, the force causes the North and South poles to flatten. Earth may not be a perfect sphere, but it is always round.
- Gravity is the force by which a planet or another body draws objects toward its center. The force of gravity keeps all of the planets in orbit around the sun and keeps the moon in orbit around Earth.
- Gravity is what holds our world together. Without gravity, we would fall off of the Earth's surface and float away.

# MAKE ART AT HOME

## Exploring Gravity and Making Your Own Bouncy Ball

Time: 20 minutes

Difficulty level: Hard



### Investigate the Work of Art!

1. The title of this piece is *Can Johnny Come Out and Play?* Looking at the size and material, does this seem like something you can play with?
2. Look closely at the surface of the sphere. What does it remind you of? What words would you use to describe it?
3. The artist Jim Love elevated ordinary objects by making them larger than life. This sculpture is 70 inches in diameter. What is an object that you would like to see large scale?

### Let's Make Some Art

#### Gather These Materials

- 1/2 cup hot water
- 1 tbsp. borax
- 2 tbsp. glue
- 1 tbsp. cornstarch
- Food coloring
- 2 bowls
- Measuring spoons
- Paper towels
- Mixing spoon
- Optional: rubber gloves

### Step-by-Step Instructions

1. In the first bowl, combine hot water and borax. Stir until dissolved.
2. In the second bowl, combine glue and cornstarch. Stir until well mixed.
3. In the second bowl, stir in a couple of drops of food coloring. You can use one color or mix colors.
4. Pour glue mixture into the first bowl containing the hot water and borax.
5. Once the glue mixture hits the borax water, it will begin to harden quickly. Keeping the glue mixture in the water, use your fingers to squish and squeeze it and start to form a ball.
6. Remove the air bubbles by continuing the process of squishing and shaping. Bubbles prevent the ball from bouncing high.
7. Take the ball out and pat it on a paper towel to remove excess liquid and bubbles.
8. Roll the ball around in your hand until you are happy with the shape and have squeezed out all bubbles.

Note: These bouncy balls don't last as long as a commercially made toy, but make for a fun afternoon activity. If you are having trouble, there are many videos online that can help.

**Share your finished artwork on social media with #MFAHathome.**

Above: Jim Love, *Can Johnny Come Out and Play?*, 1990–91, bronze, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, museum commission funded by Caroline Wiess Law in memory of Theodore N. Law, 90.419. © The Estate of Jim Love

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