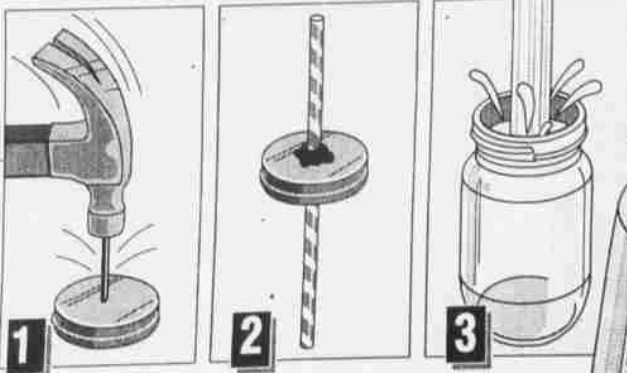


Try this: Strange straws

Liquid rises through a straw because the atmosphere pushes on the liquid's surface, forcing it up the straw as you reduce the pressure inside. These experiments reveal some details.

Bet you can't suck water from a sealed jar!

You'll need: A jar, a straw, clay or putty, hammer, nails, water.



1 Make a hole large enough for a straw in the cover of a jar.

2 Insert a straw and seal the connection with clay or putty.

3 Fill the jar with water.

Why did it happen? The surface of the water is not in contact with the atmosphere, so no air pressure can push the water into your mouth. A strong mechanical vacuum pump might be able to draw out the water, but the straw would probably collapse first.

4 Screw on the cover with the straw in place. Now try to drink the water through the straw!

Bet you can't suck soda through two straws!

Put two straws in your mouth. Stick the free end of one in a glass of soda. Keep the second straw outside the glass. Now try to drink the soda through the straw.

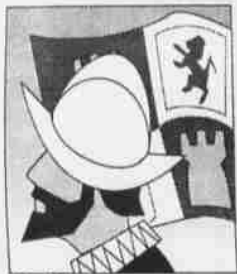
(Note: It's considered cheating to put your tongue over the end of the straw that's outside the glass or to cover this straw with your finger.)

Why did it happen? The open straw keeps you from forming a vacuum with your mouth. The second straw is a leak in the system. Since the pressure in your mouth remains the same as the atmospheric pressure, the drink stays in the glass.

SOURCE: Bet You Can't!, Avon Camelot

A history of border smuggling

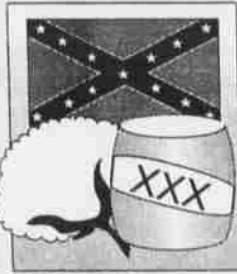
Smuggling has been part of the South Texas economy since the Rio Grande became the national border. The contraband has changed over the years, depending on what people want and what is illegal.



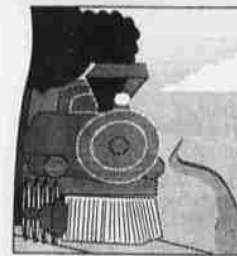
1750
Spanish settlement.



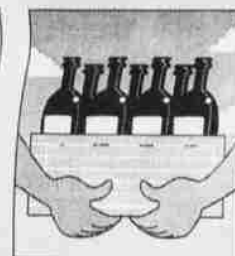
1848
Rio Grande becomes U.S.-Mexico border. Cattle are smuggled into both countries.



1861-65
Civil War. Cotton smuggled to Mexicans in exchange for gunpowder.



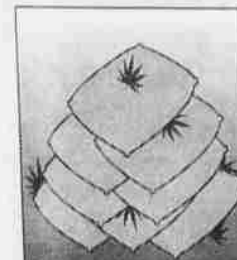
1900s
The railroad comes to the Rio Grande Valley.



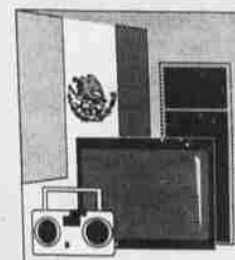
1920s
Liquor is smuggled into the U.S.



1930
Marijuana and heroin are smuggled into the U.S.



1960
Marijuana smuggling increases dramatically.



1970s
Electronics smuggled into Mexico.



1985
Cocaine smuggling increases dramatically.



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