How to make a hydro turbine



- Watch the how to make a hydro turbine video on schoolgen.co.nz
- Use a 3D printer and this template to print off the School-gen turbine To find out more about 3D printing see our 3D tips and tricks link> at school-gen.co.nz.



2. What you'll need

- 3D printed hydro turbine
- * Pencil
- **#** Blu-tack
- Running water (your kitchen tap and sink will do)



3. Get started

Step 1:

Take your 3D printed hydro turbine and put your pencil half way through the hole in the middle (this is called the axis) of the turbine.

Did you know it's called a hydro turbine because it harnesses the power of water.

Step 3:

Turn your tap on until you get a gentle stream of water.

Did you know this type of hydro turbine is called a Pelton turbine.

Step 5:

Hold the turbine a few centimetres under the tap so when the water comes out it hits the blades of the turbine.

Can you feel the energy moving from the water into the turbine.

Step 2:

Make sure your pencil doesn't fall out by putting Blu-tack on either side of the axis. Make sure to squeeze it nice and tight.

Now it's time to test it!

Step 4:

Use two hands to hold each end of your pencil lightly so the turbine can spin freely.

Step 6:

Move the turbine up and down under the tap to find the best spot – what happens when you get closer to the tap or further away?



Visit Schoolgen.co.nz to check out other projects you can do.

We've also pulled together some cool challenges to get you thinking and innovating! The easiest ones are at the top of each list, the harder ones at the end are for budding scientists and engineers.

More minds are better than one so get a team together and start throwing some ideas around and come up with a plan of attack. For designing things, we recommend (and use) TinkerCad.

- Check out some interesting facts on the history of Hydro power in New Zealand <Link>
- Try making a 3D printed turbine with housing <Link>
- * Design then build your own hydro turbine house using what you can find. Reuse and recycle as much as possible!
- Design, make and test a new turbine to find out how the number of blades affects the efficiency of the turbine. Compare it to the School-gen one. What would you need to keep the same to make it a fair test?
- Research hydro turbines, are there different types? Which ones are best for certain situations?