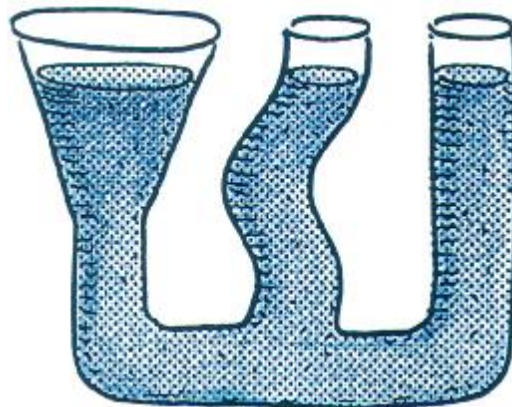


NEXT-TIME QUESTION



Everybody knows that "water seeks its own level," but very few people know **why** water seeks its own level. The reason has most to do with

- a) atmospheric pressure.
- b) water pressure depending on depth.
- c) water's density.



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Answer: b

Water pressure depends on depth, so only at equal depths of water will the pressures be equal. Consider the U-tube. If water is at rest where each X is, the pressures must be equal—otherwise a flow would occur from the region of higher to the region of lower pressure until the pressures equalize. For this to happen, the depths below the surfaces must be equal.

This is true whatever the density of liquid or whether or not there is atmospheric pressure.

