

Catapult Challenge

Ideal for: 5-11 year olds



This experiment will help you learn about projectiles and understand potential and kinetic energy.

You will need:

- Lolly sticks (8 per catapult)
- Rubber bands (lots)
- Plastic/wooden teaspoon
- Soft item to launch e.g. pompom
- Measuring tape/stick

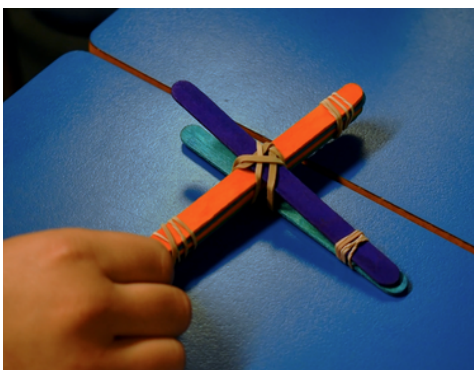


Step one

Stack six lolly sticks together and secure with an elastic band at each end.

Step two

Use the other two lolly sticks to make the arm and base of your catapult, place one under and one over your stack of sticks and secure at one end to create a V shape.



Step three

Put another elastic band around the join between the stack and the V sticks in a figure of 8 to hold in place. Slide your spoon along the arm of the catapult and secure with another elastic band.

Step four

Holding the arm and base's join firmly, put your projectile on the spoon and bend the arm down with your finger. Release and measure how far it travels.



Step five

How can you improve your catapult to make it travel further? Does adjusting the launch angle change the distance?