

Engineering Institutes:

Catapults

Materials:

- Plastic spoons
- Styrofoam bowls
- Masking tape
- Rubber bands
- Straws
- Popsicle sticks
- Mini marshmallow

Procedure:

1. Lay out all materials on a table
2. Build a catapult that uses a lever (push or pull) to launch a projectile
3. Test your catapult using mini marshmallows

Challenge Tasks:

1. Test accuracy using cotton balls and a bowl. How many times can the cotton ball make it into the bowl in 5 attempts?
2. Test power using mini marshmallows and masking tape. Launch a marshmallow 3 times, and mark its stopping point using tape. Which ones went the furthest? How far?

The Science Behind It:

Catapults are a great activity to introduce the idea of force, motion, and energy. This activity uses concepts and demonstrates mechanical energy, potential energy, and kinetic energy

