



Simple Machines Activity for Kids

Popsicle Stick Catapult DIY



Duration: **20-30 min**



Difficulty: **Medium**



Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Make a catapult to launch a marshmallow!

Material List

- 14** Large popsicle sticks
- 4** Small rubber bands
- 1** Plastic spoon
- 12** Mini marshmallows

Instructions

- 1** Take 12 popsicle sticks and stack them together.
- 2** Secure the popsicle sticks by wrapping two rubber bands around the stack.
- 3** Place one popsicle stick under the stack making a 'T' shape.
- 4** Place another popsicle stick on top of the stack making a 'T' shape.
- 5** Attach the two individual popsicle sticks together using a rubber band at one end.
- 6** Slide the handle end of a spoon into the last rubber band.
- 7** Secure the spoon end with one more rubber band.
- 8** Put a marshmallow on the spoon.
- 9** Pull down on the spoon and let go.

How It Works

A catapult works like a lever, which is a simple machine. When you push down on one end of the lever and then let go, it changes the direction of the force and pushes the marshmallow in the opposite direction. Levers are used all around us. For example, a seesaw is a lever and so is a pair of scissors!

