



The Great Pumpkin Smash

Catapult Design (K-5)

NMAITC Ag Literacy Project

Materials You'll Need

- Popsicle Sticks (10 per group – regular or super)
- Rubber Bands (5 per group – various sizes)
- Plastic Spoon (2 different handled length spoons)
- Candy Pumpkin, Cotton Ball, Crumpled Paper (sticky note size)

**Not supplied, but needed:*

- Tape (blue painters' tape or similar) to the floor at 5 ft increments to measure the distance of the launched items. Or, count out tile squares on the floor (they are usually 12"x12" in size).

Design Steps

Step 1 – Make a stack of 9 popsicle sticks and use two rubber bands to secure both sides.

Step 3 – Wedge the remaining stick in between the bottom one and the other 8 popsicle sticks – it will be perpendicular to the larger stack (creating an "x" or cross with them).

Step 4 – Use 2 rubber bands to secure the plastic spoon to the singular popsicle stick.

**To modify the design, use the extended handle spoon.*

Step 5 – Place the launching object onto the spoon. Hold/Stabilize the catapult on a table or on the floor with one hand, and use the other hand to push down on the spoon (or work as a team – one person holds it down while the other loads & launches).

Step 6 – Release the spoon and watch the object fly! Record results on your handout by filling in your bar graph.