



## Investigating Mechanical Energy

Grade 7 Science

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

In the *Knock Out!* video, you learned about the game of marbles. In this activity, you will investigate the science behind the game.

**Reminders: Mechanical energy is the energy an object has due to its motion or its position. Force and mass affect the mechanical energy of an object. Work is what happens when force is applied over a distance.**

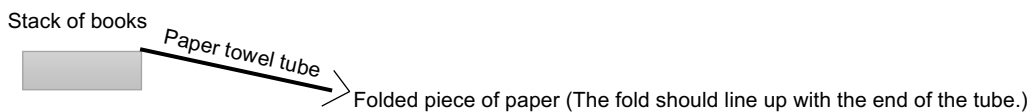
This activity is best done on the floor. You will work with a partner or in a group and will need the following:

- Marbles (a standard-sized one and a larger “shooter”)
- Paper towel tube
- 3 textbooks
- A piece of notebook paper, folded over twice (like you’re making a card)
- A ruler

### **PART 1: INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF FORCE**

You will be investigating the force of gravity by measuring the distance a marble moves the paper when it hits it after coming out of the tube. You will use different amounts of textbooks to raise your paper towel tube to different heights.

Here’s how you should set up your equipment:



Use this table to record your results, then answer the questions. For the most accurate data, do at least 2 trials for each roll and find the average.

NUMBER OF TEXTBOOKS USED	DISTANCE THE PAPER MOVED (in cm)
1	
2	
3	



# OLD SALEM EXPLORATORIUM

## Investigating Mechanical Energy



1. What happens to the force of gravity as you increase the number of textbooks?

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2. What happens to the distance the paper moved as you increase the number of textbooks?

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3. How is the force of gravity related to the distance an object moves?

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4. Which number of textbooks used results in the **greatest** potential energy of the marble?

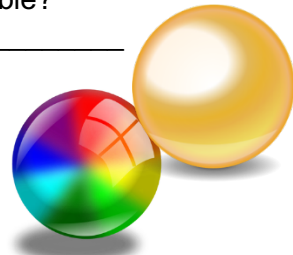
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### **PART 2: INVESTIGATING THE EFFECT OF MASS**

You will now investigate the effect of mass on the movement of an object. Set up your equipment as before except use a constant height of 2 textbooks.



*Use this table to record your results, then answer the questions. For the most accurate data, do at least 2 trials for each roll and find the average.*

TYPE OF MARBLE USED	DISTANCE THE PAPER MOVED (in cm)
Standard size	
Shooter	
Standard size AND shooter at the same time	

1. What happens to the distance the paper moves as you increase the mass of the marble?

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2. Why does this happen? (Use the term “energy” in your answer.) \_\_\_\_\_

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3. Which marble has the **least** kinetic energy? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. How does the mass of an object affect work? \_\_\_\_\_

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