



Pumpkin Catapult

How Can I Use This In My Lesson Plan?

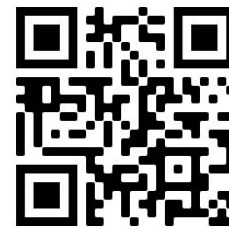
An engaging and informative fall activity, Pumpkin Catapults are the perfect way to combine STEAM learning and fun! Children won't even realize they're gaining crucial early math and science skills when they build their catapults and launch their pumpkins. This activity is an easy way to incorporate early explorations into the scientific method, measurements, and concepts like trajectory into your lesson plan.

For example, encourage a child to predict what will happen to her pumpkin if she changes the design of her catapult. Watch as she explores trajectories naturally and uses problem-solving to change the height of her catapult, resulting in a different angle of flight. Explain to the child that when she added more craft sticks, the "trajectory," or angle, of her pumpkin's flight changed. Inspire her to continue exploring trajectories by adding and removing craft sticks for more STEAM discoveries!

Required Materials:

- Jumbo Natural Craft Sticks (Item #88913)
- Rubber Bands (Item #33147)
- Designer Craft Sticks (Item #88924)
- Measuring Tape (Item #15834)
- Bottle Cap
- Candy Pumpkins

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1. Gather Your Materials

Help children select a number of craft sticks, two patterned craft sticks, and rubber bands. Provide children with a craft stick with a bottle cap attached to one end and candy pumpkins for launching.

Teacher Tip: Glue bottle caps to craft sticks before children build their catapults to save time!

2. Build Your Catapult

Begin building your catapult by stacking your craft sticks between the two patterned craft sticks selected by the student to create the catapult's base. Secure each end of the catapult's base with a rubber band. Add a craft stick to the bottom of your base and another, with the bottle cap attached, to the top. Hold one end of these craft sticks together, and secure them with rubber bands.

3. Launch Your Pumpkin

Launch pumpkins with your students! Add a candy pumpkin to your catapult's basket (the bottle cap), hold it down, and release to launch. Encourage students to use a measuring tape and record the distance of their pumpkin's flight. Add more craft sticks for more height and a farther flight!

