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Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

Catapults

A catapult is a device used to throw an object over a distance. A sling shot is a kind of catapult. Catapults were invented around 400 BCE (formerly BC) in Greece and were used as weapons against raiding armies. Today, 300 ft.-long catapults or accelerators are used to launch airplanes from aircraft carriers. You can make a simple catapult using a plastic spoon and fork, paper, tape and a washer or something for a spacer. You will also need ammunition—small objects, like elbow macaroni or chocolate chips—and a paper plate for a target. Fold a piece of copy paper in half 6 times to make it thick. The last fold will be really hard to make. Place the paper in between the spoon and fork with the spoon & fork facing outward and the folded edge of the paper fold facing toward the spoon & fork handles. Tape to hold the paper in place. Wedge a washer or some kind of spacer in between the paper folds. In the catapult, the fork becomes the base and the top spoon the launcher. Clear a launch area. To be safe, everyone needs to stay out of the launch area. Try launching elbow macaroni or miniature marshmallows or chocolate chips or other small objects as ammunition. Put a piece of macaroni in the bowl of the spoon. Use a finger on the two handles to secure the catapult to the floor or table and use a finger on your other hand to pull back on the spoon. Release spoon to launch the macaroni. Which ammunition goes the furthest? Can you modify your catapult to work better? Use a paper plate for a target. Test your accuracy by trying to get the ammunition to land on the paper plate.



1 Catapult supplies



2 Fold paper



3 Assemble



4 Tape



5 Add spacer—washer, etc.