

DIY Spider Launcher

This is a fun physics activity where you can explore kinetic energy. All kinetic energy starts as potential energy. In this case the potential energy occurs when the rubber band is stretched out. But once it is released and the rubber band makes the spider move that is kinetic energy!

Supplies Needed:

- 1 Cardboard Tube, such as a roll of Duct tape (must be wide; roll of tape does not have to be finished)
- 5 Rubber bands
- 4 Popsicle Sticks
- Tape (preferably Duct tape)
- Plastic Spiders

Directions:

1. Tape the four popsicle sticks around the outside of the cardboard tube. Make sure they are evenly spaced.



2. Stretch one rubber band around all four of the popsicle posts.



3. Twist each corner of the rubber band and re-stretch it around each post. Push down the rubber band.



4. Stretch a second rubber band around all four popsicle posts.

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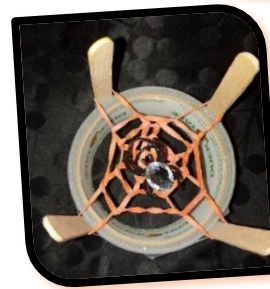
5. Stretch the first rubber band up and over the second rubber band.

6. Repeat steps 2-5, two more times.

7. Place a spider in the rubber band web.

8. Pull back on the spider web and point the launcher in the direction you want to shoot the spider.

9. Let go of the rubber band and watch the spider fly!



Extra Challenges

1. How many centimetres, inches, or feet can your spider fly?
2. Challenge your friend by having them create a DIY Spider Launcher and see who can make their spider fly further.



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