



WELCOME TO AKA SCIENCE!

For the next 4 class sessions, you will embark on a virtual journey of scientific discovery that explores the exciting worlds of biology, chemistry, physics, and engineering. We hope you enjoy the ride!

AKA Science is funded by our generous community partners.

- ABOUT YOUR KIT -

WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING?

Class 1: Explore your world (observe Biology)

- Activity 1 – *Insect Sounds*
- Activity 2 – *Frog Tongue*
- Activity 3 – *Eating Contest*

Class 2: Explore Matter (experiment with Chemistry)

- Activity 1 – *Flexible Fish*
- Activity 2 – *Cool Chromatography*
- Activity 3 – *Lava Lamps*
- Activity 4 – *Milk Motion*

Class 3: Explore Light (investigate Physics)

- Activity 1 – *Blind Spot*
- Activity 2 – *Glowing Streak / Glowing Water*
- Activity 3 – *Fun House Mirrors*
- Activity 4 – *Not in Kansas Anymore*

Class 4: Explore Forces (build with Physics & Engineering)

- Activity 1 – *Gumdrop Toothpick Tower*
- Activity 2 – *Pinwheels*
- Activity 3 – *Spool Racer*
- Activity 4 – *Cartesian Diver*

WHAT SUPPLIES WILL YOU NEED?

The "General Supply Bag" includes supplies that you'll use for different activities in more than one class. Each individual class will have its own additional list of supplies needed for that day's particular set of activities. For example, on the first day of class you'll see a list of General Supply Bag items you'll need AND a list of "Class Supply Bag" items that you'll also need. **After each class, return all general supplies back to the bag.**

What's inside the General Supply Bag?

- Cup (9oz, plastic punch) x 1
- Lab Notebook x 1
- Pencil x 1
- Scissors x 1
- Tape (scotch, roll) x 1

BEFORE YOU START:

- **NOTHING** from your AKA Science kit should go in your mouth, nose, eyes, or ears. If you have younger siblings, make sure those younger siblings do not have access to your AKA Science supplies.
- Some activities involve water or other liquids. **Please make sure you are placing your laptop/Chromebook/phone in a position/place where any accidental spills will not damage your electronics!**
- **Use your Lab Notebooks** and pen/pencil to record observations as you go.
- **REMEMBER: We all make mistakes!** Mistakes are learning opportunities and in science, it's how discoveries are made. It might take some time, but you will learn how to do this, you will get better at this, and you will eventually overcome challenges that arise. You can do hard things!

If an experiment didn't work the way you had hoped, we invite you to ask yourself:

- ✓ *What happened today that made me try hard?*
- ✓ *How did that feel?*
- ✓ *What can I learn from this?*
- ✓ *What other strategies can I try? What could I improve for next time?*
- ✓ *What do I need to learn about, get information about, or work on before I try this again?*
- ✓ *Who could I get advice or help from?*
- ✓ *How could I safely "break the rules" to try out a new idea or try this experiment in a different way?*
- ✓ *What happened today that DID work? What did I do today that I am proud of?*
- ✓ *What are my goals for the next class?*



CLASS 1: EXPLORE YOUR WORLD (OBSERVE BIOLOGY)

Activity One – Insect Sounds

Time: 25 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Scissors	1
Tape	1
Class 1 Supply Bag	#
Foam squares (adhesive)	4
Index cards (3inx5in)	1
Index cards (half-size, 3inx2.5in, assorted colors)	1
Nail files (disposable)	1
Popsicle sticks (jumbo)	1
Rubber bands (size 64)	1
Yarn (2ft pieces)	1

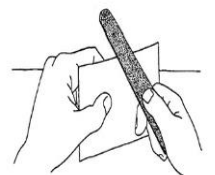
Goal: To investigate different techniques insects use to produce noise by scraping a nail file on an index card and building a contraption that buzzes when it spins & vibrates.

Procedure:

1. Grit your teeth and quickly blow air out of your mouth.

Reflection:

- **What did that sound like?**
 - **Can you think of any insects that sound like that?**
 - **What are some other insect sounds we can make?**
2. You should have a half-size index card (3inx2.5in, solid-colored) and a nail file.
 3. Hold the file in one hand and the index card in the other (see diagram at right).
 4. Drag the nail file over the edge of the card. Experiment with different angles and speeds.

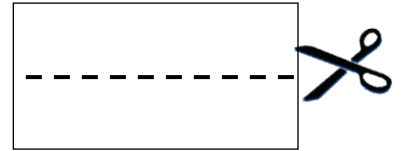


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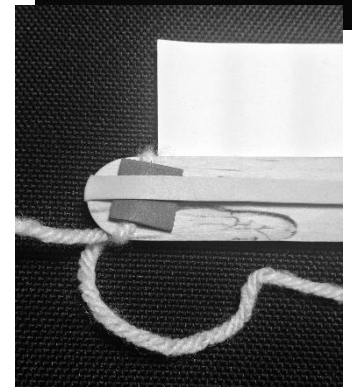
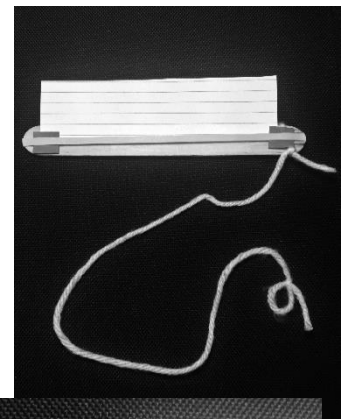
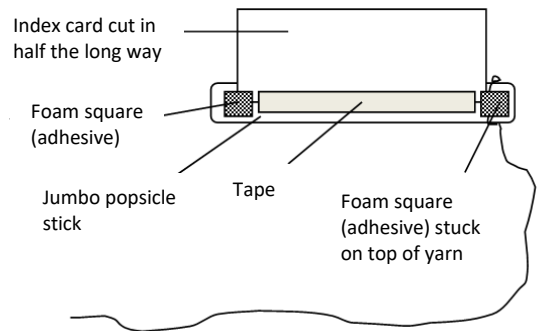
Reflection:

- **Which insects sound like that?**

5. You should have a jumbo popsicle stick, a 2ft piece of yarn, a rubber band (thick, size 64), four foam squares, and a piece of index card.
6. Cut the white 3x5in index card in half the long way.
7. Next:



- a. Lay the jumbo popsicle stick in front of them horizontally.
- b. Lay the index card on top of the popsicle stick. The long side of the index card should overlap the popsicle stick halfway up (see diagram & photo).
- c. Tape the long side of the index card to the stick. (Use a piece of tape that's 3-4 inches long. It will be shorter than the length of the index card.)
- d. Tie one end of the 2ft piece of yarn to one end of the stick with a double knot.
- e. Slide the knot to the narrow top or bottom edge of the stick (see middle photo at right).
- f. Peel the backing off a foam square and press it on top of the yarn, securing the yarn to the stick. (The square may also overlap the card.)
- g. Repeat with another foam square on the other side of the stick.
- h. Add the final two foam squares to the other end of the stick (both sides).
- i. Stretch the rubber band around the length of the popsicle stick.
- j. If the loose end of the yarn is stuck under the rubber band, free it by pulling it from under the rubber band. Students should be able to hold one end of the yarn while the rest of the contraption hangs down.



- TIPS:**
- **If needed, you can hold the foam squares in place** against the popsicle stick until the rubber band is in place.
 - **Make sure the rubber band isn't twisted**, and make sure index card has enough room to vibrate between the rubber band and popsicle stick.

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8. To use the buzzing card:
 - a. Stand at least 3 feet apart from anyone or anything.
 - b. Holding the yarn at the loose end, twirl the buzzing card in a circle in front of them or to one side (see photo at left).
 - c. To stop the card, stick out an index finger and let the yarn wind around it.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **Why do you think that happened?**
- **What did it sound like?**

9. Spin the card faster or slower or hold the string closer to the card.

Reflection:

- **How did those changes affect the sound?**

The Science Behind It:

When you spun the card around, rushing air wiggled the card, making vibrations so fast that you heard them as a buzzing sound. There's a reason it sounded like the buzzing of bees, flies, and wasps: their wings move and vibrate the air just like your card, making that distinct "bzzzz" sound.

All sound is a form of vibration. When bugs expel air or move their wings, they vibrate the air around them, which makes noise. Insects themselves have ears that are different than human ears, and they can be located in different places on the body, depending on the insect—from wings, to chests, to legs. Most insects also have tiny hairs all over their bodies that sense vibrations. (www.scientificamerican.com/article/why-do-bees-buzz/, www.thenakedscientists.com/articles/interviews/how-do-insects-hear/)

Activity Source: Adapted from: www.kiwicrate.com/blog/4796/buzzing-bee-noisemaker/



Activity Two – Frog Tongue

Time: 10 Minutes

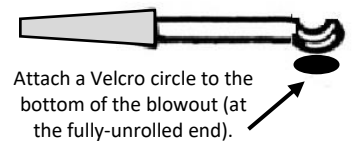
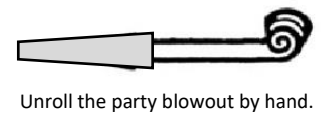
Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 1 Supply Bag	#
Felt (small pieces, assorted colors)	5
Party blowouts	1
Velcro circles (hooks/rough side only, adhesive)	1

Goal: To investigate how frogs' tongues are adapted for catching flies by exploring a model using a party blowout and small pieces of felt.

Procedure:

1. Reflection:
 - **How do you think animals get their food?**
 - **What eats insects?**
2. Get out your party blowout ("frog tongue") and a Velcro circle.
3. Next:
 - a. Unroll the party blowout with your hands.
 - b. Remove the Velcro circle from its backing.
 - c. Stick the Velcro circle on the underside of the blowout (near the tip).
4. This is a model of a frog tongue and you will use it to catch flies!
5. You have around five small pieces of felt (these are the "flies").
6. Next:
 - a. Spread the "flies" out on a flat surface (like a desk or table).
 - b. Put the blowing end of the frog tongue in their mouth and hold it in place.
 - c. Try picking up flies with the frog tongue (it may take some practice).



Reflection:

- **Were you able to catch the flies?**
- **What did you notice about the frog tongue?**
- **How is it helpful for a frog to have a tongue that moves fast and stretches out far away from its body?**
- **What do frogs get from eating insects as food, besides a delicious treat?**

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The Science Behind It:

Frogs are very well-adapted predators. They're famous for eating flies, but they also eat other insects and small animals. A frog hunts by quietly waiting for its prey to come close, then quickly flicking its sticky tongue out and pulling the prey into its mouth.

Unlike a human's tongue, which is attached in the back of our mouth, a frog's tongue is attached to the front. This makes it so a frog can throw its tongue towards its meal. A frog's tongue is very strong: it can lift 1.4 times its own body weight. That would be like a 90-lb person lifting a 126-lb person - with only their tongue! A frog's mouth also has numerous small teeth that form a cage around its captured prey, preventing it from escaping. Even with all those teeth, frogs don't need to chew their food—they swallow it whole. Frogs can even contort their eye sockets to help push the food down.

[\(nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/12/frogs-animals-weird-science-tongues-adhesive-science/\)](http://nationalgeographic.com/2014/06/12/frogs-animals-weird-science-tongues-adhesive-science/)

Activity Source: Inspired by: totallytots.blogspot.com/2010/09/once-upon-book-mixed-up-chameleon.html

Activity Three – Eating Contest

Time: 20 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 1 Supply Bag	#
Bowl (paper)	1
Marbles (small)	2
Mini Clothespin	1
Plate (paper)	2
Plastic fork	1
Plastic spoon	1
Plastic tweezer	1
Rice container	1
Sand bag	1
Yarn bag (1 in pieces)	1
Folder	#
Worksheets: Beak Types - Water Birds	1
Worksheets: Beak Types - Land Birds	1

Goal: To investigate how bird beaks are adapted for eating different types of foods by exploring tweezers, mini clothespins, spoons, and forks as model beaks. To explore how different beak shapes help with eating different types of food.

Procedure:

1. Reflection:
 - Some birds eat insects—but there are many types of birds, and they eat different types of food. **Do you think an insect-eating bird would be able to eat fish?**
 - **Would a meat-eating bird be able to eat seeds? Let's find out!**
 - **Do all bird beaks look the same?**
2. You will be using some everyday objects as models of different beak types.
3. Look at your fork, a spoon, tweezers, and a mini clothespin. Decide which of the four “beaks” you will start with.
4. You will use your plate to set up four unique “foods” that you will test your “beak” with. Start with ONE type of food at a time (e.g. container of rice)

You should prepare:

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- a. **Container of rice** (pour about half into the bowl for your rice and sand mixture)
 - b. **Pile of yarn** (Note: when it's time to "eat" the yarn, spread out the pieces of yarn on the plate)
 - c. **2 marbles** (Note: when it's time to "eat" the marbles, make sure they stay on the plate!)
 - d. **Bowl of rice & sand** (Note: Take around half of your rice from your container and mix with sand in the bowl)
5. Each of these four "foods" represents a different kind of food that birds might eat. Your job will be to use your "beak" to try to pick up (or "eat") each type of "food." **NOTE: Do not actually EAT the "food"!!!!**

RULES:

- **You can only work on ONE type of food item at a time** (e.g. start with the rice). It's best if the whole class starts does the same "food" at the same time.
- **You can only pick up ONE food bit at a time** (e.g. one grain of rice, one marble, one piece of yarn).
- **You can ONLY use your beak** to pick up the food. **Note:** Your beak may not be able to pick up that many food items (e.g. the rice might slip through the fork) and that's OKAY!
- **You can only use one hand (the hand with the "beak") to "eat" the food.**
- **The food has to be on the plate while you "eat"** (e.g. you can't pick up the vial or pour the rice onto your spoon, etc.) and you can put it in your ziplock bag once you pick it up.
- **Before you move on to the next type of food, you must empty out your Ziplock bag** (i.e. your "stomach") so that the bag is empty before you start your next "food."

Reflection:

- ***Which beaks do you think will work better for picking up each type of food?***
6. **For added challenge,** ask an adult to set up a time limit (e.g. 1 minute) for each type of "food." For example, start with the container of rice and set a timer so that you use your beak to pick up the grains of rice for one minute then once the time is up, record how many grains of rice you got during that minute.
 7. Empty out your "stomach" (Ziplock bag) and put the "food" back (e.g. rice back into the container) to the best of your ability. Get the next type of "food" ready (e.g. the pieces of yarn).
 8. You will keep your same beak for now.
 9. Repeat until you have explored all four types of "food" with your beak.
 10. Once completed, do the below reflection:

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Reflection:

- **Were some types of beaks better for picking up certain foods?**
- **Why do you think real birds have different types of beaks?**

11. **If time allows**, repeat the activity using a different beak, or explore freely and try out all the beaks.
12. Pull out the two "Beak Types" worksheet (Land Birds and Water Birds).

Reflection:

- **Do you think our beak models are anything like real bird beaks?**
- **What did you notice?**
- **Did anything surprise you?**
- **Have you ever seen birds with any of these types of beaks?**

The Science Behind It:

Birds' beaks are well-adapted to pick up the type of food each bird eats. Seed-eaters have big, sturdy beaks to crush open seeds. Woodpeckers have pointed, chisel-like beaks to drill into trees for insects. Some birds have sharp, pointed beaks to spear fish, while other birds have beaks they can open up wide (like a net) to catch flying bugs. (http://fsc.fernbank.edu/birding/bird_beaks.htm)

Activity Source: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/1998/of98-805/lessons/chpt2/act5.htm>

CLASS 2: EXPLORE MATTER (EXPERIMENT WITH CHEMISTRY)

Activity One – Flexible Fish

Time: 5 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 2 Supply Bag	#
Fortune Teller Fish	1
Paper towels (piece)	1

Goal: To learn about polymers by observing how cellophane interacts with moisture.

Procedure:

1. You should have a Fortune Teller Fish. It can't *really* tell your fortune, but there's some fun science behind it!
2. Remove the fish from its wrapper (without handling it too much) and set it flat on the table. Keep the wrapper nearby.

Reflection:

- **What properties does the fish have?** (Color, texture, material?)
- **What type of matter is it?** (Solid, liquid, or gas?) **Let's see how it acts if you put it on your hand instead of the table.**

3. Put the fish flat in the palm of your hand.

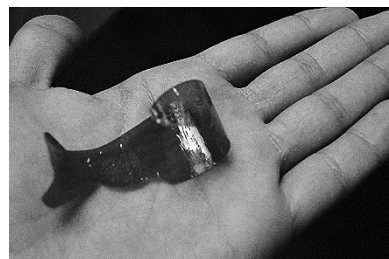
Reflection:

- **What happened?**

4. Put the fish on a dry part of their desk (it should stop moving).

Reflection:

- **What do you think caused the fish to move?**

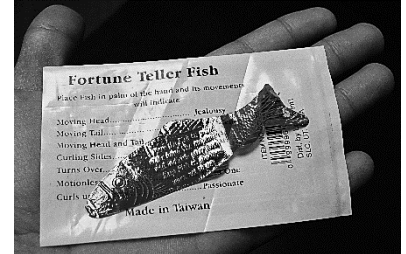


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- Lay the wrapper flat on your palm, then put the fish on top of it.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **What effect do you think the plastic wrapper had?**
- **What can we rule out as a possible explanation for what makes the fish move? (Heat? Light? Moisture?)**
- **What is our best guess (hypothesis) and how could we test that?**



- Dip your paper towel into some water then wring it out so the paper towel is damp but not dripping.

Reflection:

- **Do you think this paper towel has more or less moisture than your hand?**
- **What do you think will happen if you put the fish on top of it?**



- Lay the paper towel flat on the table, then put the fish on top of it.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **What does this remind you of?**
- **What do you think it going on?**

- If time allows**, try doing jumping jacks or jogging in place to see whether working up a sweat increases the moisture on your palms.

The Science Behind It:

The fish are made of cellophane, which is a naturally-occurring polymer that comes from wood. Cellophane absorbs water very easily. The palms of your hands have lots of sweat glands that produce moisture. When you place the fish on your palm, it absorbs the water from your sweat. As the cellophane absorbs the water, its molecules change shape and swell up, making the fish twist and turn (the main direction it curls depends on the "grain" of the cellophane). Cellophane is also thin enough that when you put it on the table, the water evaporates quickly, making it flatten back out.

(www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/fortune-telling-fish, <http://cosmos.bgsu.edu/STEMinPark/>)

Activity Source: www.terrificscience.org & www.polymerambassadors.org/FortuneFish.pdf

Activity Two – Cool Chromatography

Time: 10 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Cup (9 oz, plastic, punch)	1
Class 2 Supply Bag	#
Coffee filters prepped with black MARKER ink circles (paper, round)	1
Coffee filters prepped with black WET ERASE marker (paper, triangular)	1
Plate (paper)	1

Goal: To perform chromatography with coffee filters and water to separate black marker ink into multiple colors of dye.

Procedure:

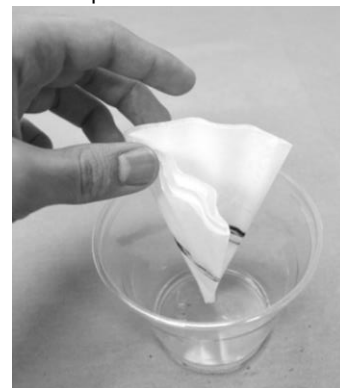
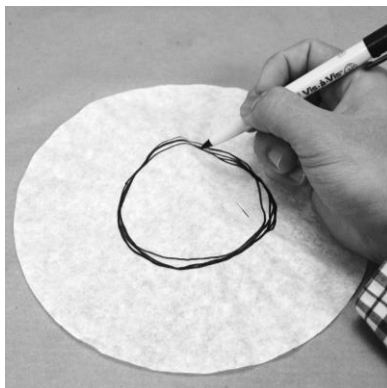
1. We will be exploring the color black today.

Reflection:

- **What is the color black?**
- **Is it just one color or a mixture of different colors? Let's explore!**

2. You should have: a pencil, a prepared coffee filter with MARKER (round), an prepared coffee filter with WET ERASE MARKER (triangular), a plate, and a 9oz cup that has water in it just up to the indent near the base of the cup.
3. Next:

- a. Fold the filter in half 3 times to form a wedge ("like a pizza slice").
- b. Gently place the wedge in your cup point-down—so the tip of the filter is in the water—then let go (see top photo).



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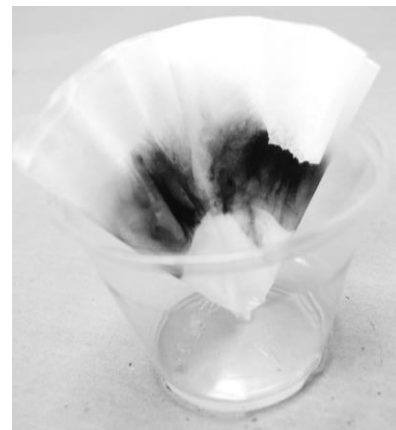
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- Watch as the water travels up the filter (see photo).

Reflection:

- **What do you notice?**
- **What colors can you see separating out from the marker?**

- After a few minutes, gently lift the filter out of the water (holding it by the edges) and spread it out over the top of the cup to dry.
- Now**, get out your second blank coffee filter (triangular) and a plate.
- Next:**



- TIPS:**
- **It works best to remove the filter while the edges are still dry.** The marker ink will continue to travel a little further, even after the filter has been removed from the water.
 - **Do not touch the wet ink on the filter**, since the ink will come off on their hands. (However, the ink can be washed off.)
 - **The filter will look best once the white part dries**, since it creates visual contrast with the separated colors.

- Remove the first filter from on top of the cup and lay it on the plate, ideally upside-down (the gap between the center of the filter and the plate will help the filter dry).
- Repeat the activity.
- The circle on the first prepared coffee filter was made with a regular marker, not a wet erase marker. Did you notice a difference?
- When you are done, clean your 9oz punch cup and return to your General Supply Kit.**

The Science Behind It:

Chromatography is a method that scientists use to separate out the different dyes in ink. When you put the coffee filter in the water, the water immediately spreads out through the paper via a process called capillary action. The ink gets dissolved in the water and moves along with it.

Ink is actually made of a mixture of different dyes. As the different dyes move with the water, some of them are more attracted to the paper, so they move slowly and stop soon. Some of the dyes are more attracted to the water, so they move quickly and travel farther away from the center of the paper. After a little while, the dyes separate so you can see each individual color. Different brands of black markers use different combinations of dyes. Even if the markers look the same when you write with them, the inks separate out differently.

Chromatography can be used in real life to figure out what things are used to make up ink and other liquids. You can use chromatography to separate out all the ingredients, then you can use different tests to find out what those ingredients are. Chromatography was used to figure out what makes leaves change colors. Scientists used chromatography to separate out the pigments in green leaves, proving that the



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leaves also have reds and oranges in them. (<http://www.webexhibits.org/causesofcolor/7E.html>,
www.explainthatstuff.com/chromatography.html)

Activity Source: <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/is-black-black>

Activity Three – Lava Lamps

Time: 15-20 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 2 Supply Bag	#
Alka-Seltzer (container)	1
Bottles (8oz bottle of oil)	1
Color fizzers (small tablets, blue)	1

Goal: To create physical and chemical reactions by making a homemade “lava lamp” using Alka-Seltzer, oil, and water.

Procedure:

1. This activity uses oil and water. **Before you begin, make sure your electronics are far away from your work space.**
2. We will be exploring a really cool thing called a Lava Lamp today!

Reflection:

- **Have you ever seen a lava lamp before? Do you know how it works?**

3. You should have an 8oz water bottle of oil. If it has a wrapper, take it off. Fill your 9oz punch cup with water.

Reflection:

- **What do you think will happen if we add water on top of the oil in this bottle? Let's find out!**

4. Carefully pour the water into the bottle. Fill until the total liquid is the width of a dime above the top indented line of the bottle.

TIP: • **If your room has a sink, it may be easier to add water to each bottle from the faucet.**

Reflection:

- **What happened? Let's see what happens if we add some color.**

5. You should have a blue color fizzer.
6. Drop the color fizzer into their bottle.

Reflection:

- **What did you observe?**

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7. You should have a container with a broken Alka-Seltzer tablet.
8. Next, drop a small quarter-piece of Alka-Seltzer into the bottle and observe.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **What type of matter is carbon dioxide—solid, liquid, or gas?**
- **Do you think carbon dioxide gas is more or less dense than water?**
- **Where else have you seen fizzy bubbles like the ones in the lava lamp?**
- **Do you think you could make the lava lamp react again if you add more Alka-Seltzer?**

9. Once the initial reaction slows down, put your second quarter-piece of Alka-Seltzer in the bottle and observe.

Reflection:

- **Did it work?**
- **What do you think will happen with a larger piece of Alka-Seltzer?**

10. Put the rest of your Alka-Seltzer (equivalent of half a tablet) in the bottle and observe.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**

11. Wait until your lava lamp stops reacting.

TIP: • **DON'T put the cap on your Lava Lamp bottle until you no longer see bubbles forming.** If you put the cap on too soon, pressure can build up inside the bottle from gas that can't escape, which could cause the bottle to burst and/or leak and make an oily mess.

NOTE: • **Remember, you should NOT eat the Alka-Seltzer tablets or use them for anything other than this experiment.**

- If you run out of tablets, there are DIY lava lamp options online that use baking powder or baking soda.

The Science Behind It:

There are three things going on here! Alka-Seltzer's reaction with water is a chemical reaction, because it produces something new: bubbles of carbon dioxide gas. The color fizzer also creates a brief chemical reaction because it contains the same ingredient as Alka-Seltzer. However, once the color fizzer stops fizzing, the remaining effect is a physical change: mixing the blue pigment with the water. Adding pigment or dye to something is different than creating a color change due to a chemical reaction. Real lava lamps work using density to get things moving, but instead of Alka-Seltzer, they use heat. By mixing just the right combination of chemicals, wax, and water, you

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can make a blob that moves up when it's warm and falls back down when it cools.

(www.acs.org/content/dam/acsorg/

education/outreach/kidschemistry/activities/lava-lamp.pdf, www.oozinggoo.com/ll-form5.html,

www.stevespanglerscience.com/green-fizzers-color-changing-tablets.html)

Activity Source: Inspired by Cool Concoctions

Activity Four – Milk Motion

Time: 10 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Cup (9oz, plastic, punch)	1
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 2 Supply Bag	#
Bowls (20oz, sturdy paper)	1
Cotton swabs (6in, wood handle)	1
Cups (1oz, plastic, calibrated)	1
Dish soap (small tube, green)	1
Milk (powdered, small bag)	1
Food coloring (small tube, assorted colors)	2
Spoons (plastic)	1

Goal: To explore the action of soap by observing how touching the surface of powdered milk with soap causes food coloring to mix and swirl.

Procedure:

1. Think about what you know about mixtures.

Reflection:

- **What happened when you mixed water and oil in the last activity?**
 - **What happened when you added Alka-Seltzer tablets?**
 - **Can you think of other mixtures that have surprising results?**
2. You should prepare a calibrated cup with 1oz of powdered milk, and get out a 9oz cup, a plastic spoon, and a bowl.
 3. Use a paper towel to make sure your 9oz cup is dry from the last activity.
 4. Empty the powdered milk into the bowl. **TIP:** You may want to add just half of the provided milk, and mix, slowly adding more milk until it looks like whole milk.
 5. Fill up the 1oz calibrated cup with water and empty it into the bowl of powdered milk.
 6. Use the spoon to stir the water/powdered milk mixture until it's thoroughly blended. When finished, let the mixture sit undisturbed so the milk stops swirling.
 7. You should have a tube of soap. Empty out the soap tube into the 9oz cup.

Reflection:

- **Do you know how soap works? Let's use this property of soap to make the milk move without touching it!**

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- You should have 2 tubes of food coloring. Gently cut a small slit at the top of the tubes, and add four drops of food coloring into the bowl: two drops of the first color (across from each other, near opposite sides of the bowl) and two drops of the other color (perpendicular to the first set, also across from each other near opposite sides of the bowl).

CAUTION: Food coloring will stain hands and clothes.

- Add the drops of food coloring close to the surface of the milk to minimize splashing.
- You can only touch the liquid with their cotton swab, and only when instructed.

Reflection:

- **What do you notice about the food coloring?**
- **Knowing that soap grabs onto water and fat molecules at the same time, what do you think will happen if you dip a cotton swab in the soap, then place the soap on each dot of food coloring? Let's find out!**

- Prepare two cotton swabs.
- Dip your cotton swab in the soap and get ready (hold the swabs off to the side of the bowl, and don't jostle the bowl).
- Place the soaped end of your cotton swab in the milk. Aim for the middle of one color.
- Observe what happens, then put your cotton swabs back in the 9oz cup. (It helps to keep the swabs in the 9oz cup when not in use to avoid a mess.)
- After a moment, re-dip your cotton swab in the soap, then press and hold it in the milk, near where one of the other drops of food coloring was (even if you can't see it clearly).
- Put your cotton swab back in the cup while you observe.
- Repeat the process with each of the other color drop in different areas of the bowl until the soap no longer causes a visible change.
- When you are done, make sure to clean your 9oz. cup and return to your General Supply Kit.



Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **Why do you think that happened?**
- **What do you think would happen if you repeated the experiment with water or another liquid instead of milk?**

The Science Behind It:

Let's think about the three players in this experiment: milk, food coloring, and soap. Milk is mostly water, but it's not clear like water because it has fat, proteins, and other nutrients suspended in it. Food coloring is mostly dyed water. Soap is a very special molecule! Soap is a molecule with two different ends. One end loves water, and the other end loves fat.

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When you put soap in a mixture of fat and water, one end of the soap attaches to water molecules, and the other end attaches to fat molecules. In this experiment, there were a lot of water molecules, but the fat was suspended in the milk. When you touched the surface of the milk with your soapy Q-tip, the soap raced out to find fat molecules and attach them to water molecules in a continuous process that caused the surface of the liquid to move. The food dye particles went along for the crazy ride, and helped you see how the milk, soap, and water moved! Soap's special property is what makes it so good for washing your hands! The soap clumps around the oil and dirt on your hands, then washes away under running water.

(www.stevespanglerscience.com/lab/experiments/milk-color-explosion/)

Activity Source: www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/milk-color-explosion & thanks to Katie Bryars Wenner

CLASS 3: EXPLORE LIGHT (INVESTIGATE PHYSICS)

Activity One – Blind Spot

Time: 5 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 3 bag	#
Eye patch	1
Folder	#
Worksheets: Blind Spot (strips) *this is small, so might be at bottom of folder	1

Goal: Explore our natural blind-spots using a vision exercise

Procedure:

1. You should have a Blind Spot strip in your folder. Hold it so that the star is on the left and the dot is on the right.
2. Cover your left eye with a hand or with the pirate eye patch and hold the strip with your other hand about an inch from your face, with the star on the left.
 - a. Focus on looking at the star and notice the dot visible in your peripheral vision. Make sure the star is on the same side as the eye patch (e.g. both on the left.)
 - b. *Slowly* move the paper away from your face, staring at the star, and watch for the moment as the dot disappears and then reappears in your peripheral vision.
 - c. If you don't see the dot disappear and reappear, you can try covering your right eye instead of your left.

Reflection:

- **What happened?**
 - **Why did the dot disappear?**
 - **Where else do we talk about blind spots?**
3. **If time allows**, draw a straight line between the star and the dot with a pencil, then repeat the activity. When the dot disappears, it looks like the line goes straight through the empty space!

The Science Behind It: The retina receives light and turns it into signals. However, at the spot where the optic nerve exits the eyeball the retina can't receive light, which

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creates a small blind spot in our field of vision. Usually, the brain fills in the gap with information from our environment and our other eye, so we're not aware that anything is missing. Some animals don't have blind spots! An octopus doesn't have a blind spot because the nerves in its eyes don't block any cells, so its whole eye is able to see.

(<https://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/chvision.html>)

Activity Source: *Biology Life on Earth - 7th ed. by Teresa & Gerald Audesirk & Bruce Byers and <http://www.aaofoundation.org/what/heritage/upload/Eye%20Openers.pdf>*

Activity Two – Glowing Streak / Glowing Water

Time: 15 Minutes

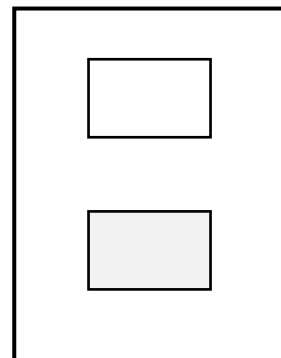
Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Cup (9oz, plastic, punch)	1
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Class 3 Supply Bag	#
Highlighters (yellow)	1
LED Lights (blue)	1
Markers (yellow)	1
Folder	#
Paper (8.5inx11in, sheets, white)	1
Worksheets: Electromagnetic Spectrum	1

Goal: To learn how UV light can activate fluorescence in highlighter pen ink.

Procedure:

1. Use the plain yellow marker to create a solid rectangle (roughly 2inx3in) on one half of the white paper.
2. Use the bright yellow highlighter to create a second solid rectangle (roughly 2inx3in) below the darker yellow rectangle (leave some room in between – see picture to the right).
3. You should have a blue LED flashlight (blue is similar to ultraviolet on the electromagnetic spectrum).
4. Turn off the lights in the room. If turning off the lights does not seem dark enough, you could conduct the experiment under your desk/table, under your coats, or move to a darker corner of the room, etc. Also, you'll need to either dim your laptop screen, put a shirt over the screen, or turn the laptop away from yourself while you experiment.



Reflection:

- **What do you think will happen when we shine UV light on the yellow marker?**
5. You can fold your paper in half to just show the rectangle of yellow marker, or cover the highlighted rectangle. Shine the blue light on the patch of yellow marker, and observe.

Reflection:

- **What do you think will happen when we shine UV light on the highlighter rectangle?**

6. Shine the blue LED onto the highlighter rectangle.

Reflection:

- **How is the highlighter different from the plain yellow marker?**

7. **Did you know:** *The highlighter is fluorescent, meaning that it can absorb UV light and emit it as visible light. The blue light excites the fluorescent dye in the highlighter which reflects light back to us as a glow that we can see. **WOW!***

Reflection:

- **What would happen if we put the highlighter into water?**

8. Turn the lights back on and fill your 9oz plastic cup half-filled with water.
9. Uncap your highlighter, then swirl the highlighter around in the water with the tip down. The highlighter should stay in the cup while you experiment.
10. Once the dye has seeped into the water, get their LED lights ready (don't turn them on yet), and turn off the room lights.
11. Observe what the water looks like without the LED on.
12. Hypothesize about what will happen once you shine the blue LED lights on the water.
13. Aim your blue LED light towards the water and turn it on. You will observe the water glowing!
14. Turn on the lights and observe the cup again.



Reflection:

- **Why did the highlighter ink stop glowing when you turned the lights off?**
- **Did the water glow by itself or did it need light from a different source (e.g. blue LED light) in order to emit the light back outward as a glow?**

The Science Behind It:

A black light gives out light in the ultraviolet (UV) range. The UV light is invisible to our eyes, but when the black light shines on something fluorescent, some of the UV light gets converted and reflected back to us as visible light, which we see as a glow. There are lots of uses for fluorescence. Some light bulbs are fluorescent. Electricity adds energy to a gas inside, and that gas gives off UV light. The UV light hits a fluorescent coating inside the bulb, making it glow. That's why sometimes lights start out dim and get brighter the longer they are on - it takes a while to build up enough UV light to get the coating to fluoresce and glow. Some scorpions fluoresce. Their exoskeleton (the hard outer layer) has chemicals inside of it that glow under a black light. No one knows why scorpions glow, but it is possible this helps them see better in the dark by picking up



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light from the stars. (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=cfls.pr_cfls_about#how_work,
<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/notrocketscience/2011/12/23/why-do-scorpions-glow-in-the-dark-and-could-their-whole-bodies-be-one-big-eye>)

Activity Source: <http://www.stevespanglerscience.com/experiment/black-light-secret-message>, <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments/glowingwater.html> &
http://www.ehow.com/how_7783236_make-glowing-water-black-light.html

Activity Three – Fun House Mirrors

Time: 20 Minutes

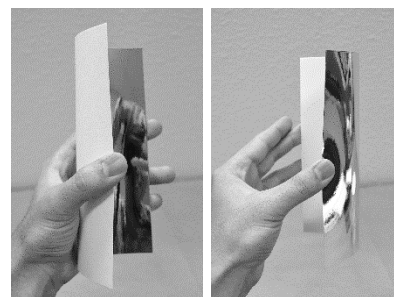
Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Tape (roll)	1
Class 3 Supply Bag	#
Mirror Board Sheets	1
Mirrors (2inx3in)	1
Folder	#
Paper (8.5inx11in, sheets, white)	2

Goal: To study how changing the shape of a mirror changes its reflective properties using flexible mirror boards.

Procedure:

1. You should have a flexible mirror board sheet.
2. Explore by bending the mirrors and making observations.
3. Hold the mirror by the edges without bending it. Close one eye, or cover one eye with your hand, and look at your **reflection** in the mirror.
4. Then, gently squeeze the left and right edges of the mirror together so the center of the mirror bulges away from you, leaving the left and right side closer to you. This should create the illusion of your face splitting in two and then coming back together.



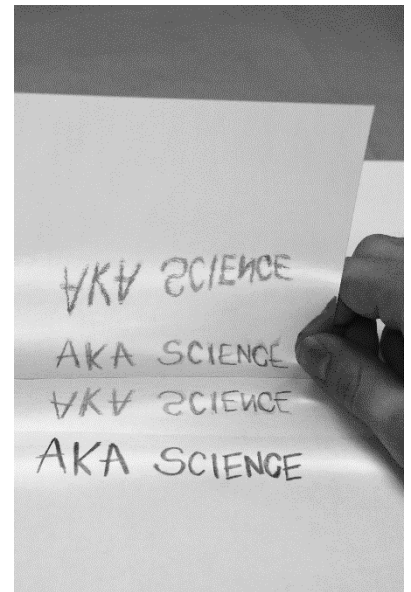
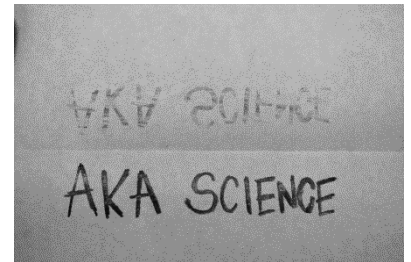
Reflection:

- **Can you change the way you look in this mirror by bending or moving it? Can you make yourself look narrower or wider? Can you flip your image upside-down? What did you do to the mirror to make that happen?**
 - **If you bend the mirror top to bottom so that it bulges towards you, do you look smaller or larger? What about if you bend it the opposite direction?**
 - **What would happen if you wrote something and then looked at it in a mirror? Let's find out!**
5. You should have a sheet of paper and a pencil.
 6. Write your name on the paper.

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7. Look at your writing in the mirror. Experiment with bending the mirror to change the orientation of the reflected text.
8. Try to write your name backwards so that it appears forwards when reflected in a flat mirror.
9. You should have a 2inx3in mirror.
10. Fold your paper hamburger-style (bringing the two short ends together) and open it back up.
11. Write your name HEAVILY with the pencil on the inside of the folded sheet.
12. Refold the paper and rub firmly on the blank, outer part of the sheet to transfer the pencil image inside the folded paper. Unfold the paper.
13. Use your pencil to write over and darken the transferred design.
14. Hold your 2inx3in mirror upright with one edge on the paper, above the transferred image. The transfer image should appear "normal", or right-side-up in the mirror.
15. Write the word "TOT" in capital letters on your paper.
16. Hold your 2inx3in mirror upright with one edge on the paper, along one side of the word "TOT."
17. Look at the word in the mirror. They should notice that the word looks the same.
18. Draw a vertical line down the center of the letters "T" and "O." Notice that the shapes of the letters are the same on either side of the vertical line, indicating that the word TOT is **symmetrical**.
19. Take some time to explore and experiment with other shapes, letters, numbers, or words.
20. Write a short sentence on one side of the paper.
21. Look at their writing in the mirror. It should appear reversed.



Reflection:

- **How could you use what you know about mirrors to write a secret message?**

22. Prepare another sheet of paper.
23. Copy the reversed writing you see onto the second sheet of paper.
24. Show it to friends or family to see if they can decipher the message, first without and then with mirrors.

The Science Behind It:

Normally, light travels in a straight line when it's reflected off of a flat mirror. A bent mirror, however, reflects light in a different way than a flat mirror due to its curved shape. There are two types of curved mirrors. Mirrors that bend inwards like a cave (the middle is farther from you when you're looking at it) are called concave mirrors. Mirrors that bulge outwards (the middle is closer to you) are called convex mirrors. Curved

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mirrors are used for lots of things. Concave mirrors take light rays that are farther apart and focus them on a point in front of the mirror. They can be used to magnify a reflection, like in a makeup compact, or to focus light on an object (and start a fire!). Convex mirrors take light rays that are closer together and spread them out. They are often used in hallways because their shape allows you to see around corners and avoid walking into someone. You might notice them in convenience stores or on the corners of driveways.

(www.physicsclassroom.com/class/refln/Lesson-3/The-Anatomy-of-a-Curved-Mirror)

Activity Source: *49 Easy Science Experiments with Optics* by Robert W. Wood,
www.teachnet.com/lesson/art/mirroflipimages.html & www.exploratorium.edu

Activity Four – Not in Kansas Anymore

Time: 10 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Scissors	1
Tape (rolls)	1
Class 3 Supply Bag	#
Wooden tops (spinners)	1
Folder	#
Worksheets: Benham's Disk (quarter sheets)	1

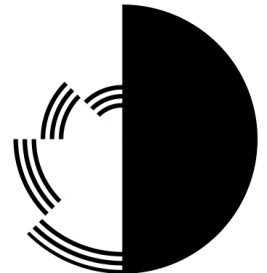
Goal: To show how the brain can be tricked into seeing black and white as color using Benham's Disk.

Procedure:

1. You should have a Benham's Disk worksheet.

Reflection:

- **What do you see when you look at this disk? What do you think we might use it for?**
- **What might we see if we spin the disk very fast?**



2. You should have one wooden top. Practice spinning your top a few times in each direction.
3. Gently poke your wooden spinners through the center of the paper Benham's Disk, so that the disk comes to rest on the topside of the spinner's base. Your pencil can be used to start a central hole on the paper disk if you have trouble using the spinner to poke the hole. Tape can be used to secure the disk to the wooden spinner base, if the fit is not snug enough.
4. Hypothesize about what you think you'll see when you spin your wooden tops. Then, give your top a whirl. Focus on the black bands and see if anything changes.

Note: in order to see the effect, you will have to spin it consistently, evenly and pretty quickly. Keep on trying!

5. Try spinning your top in both directions (clockwise and counter-clockwise) and note any differences.

Reflection:



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- ***Do you observe any differences when you spin the disk in the opposite direction?***
 - ***Why do you think we're seeing colors when they're aren't any?***
 - ***Do you think other patterns might create similar effects or optical illusions?***
6. **OPTIONAL:** If there is extra paper readily available, you are free to cut out your own blank disks to decorate or attempt to design your own optical illusion pattern to put on your wooden top and see what happens!

The Science Behind It:

The "Artificial Spectrum Top" invented by Mr. C.E. Benham was first released in 1894 as a toy to study optics. The disc is special because its rotating black and white pattern fools the viewer's brain into seeing color! Scientists are still debating why our brains perceive color in these circumstances. One of the top theories is related to persistence of vision and suggests the alternating black white pattern triggers our eye's color sensors into thinking we're seeing color. Other Benham patterns are available online. Try them out and see what colors they reveal! (<http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/benham.html>)

Activity Source: *Awesome Experiments in Light & Sound, Michael DiSpezio and Catherine Leary*

CLASS 4: EXPLORE FORCES (BUILD WITH PHYSICS & ENGINEERING)

Activity One – Gumdrops Toothpick Tower

Time: 30 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Tape (rolls)	1
Class 4 Supply Bag	#
Cardboard (12"x12")	1
Gumdrops (3.25 oz portions)	1
Toothpicks (bag)	1
Folder	#
Towers of the World Worksheet	1

Goal: Using criteria and constraints, design and create a stable tower.

Procedures:

1. Think about what you know about towers.

Reflection:

- **Have you ever tried to build a structure out of Legos or building blocks?**
 - **How did you decide what to build?**
 - **How did you know what you build will work, and not fall down?**
 - **What do you think gravity does? Why is this important in building things?**
 - **What is a tower? What does a tower look like? What does it do? How is it built?**
 - **How would you go about building a tower out of a soft material, like marshmallows or gumdrops?**
2. You will be building a tower but must follow certain criteria and constraints:
 - **Criteria** are things you or your design need to accomplish.
 - **Constraints** are ways that you or your design are limited.
 3. Look at the Tower Worksheet. On the worksheet are examples of towers from throughout human history.

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Reflection:

- **What do all these towers have in common?**
 - **How are they different from one another?**
 - **Which tower seems like it would best handle an earthquake vs a hurricane?**
 - **What design is tallest?**
 - **Which tower do you think would be most stable in a variety of conditions?**
 - **How could we make a tower both tall and stable?**
4. You should have toothpicks and gummy dots. Make some 3-D shapes with the materials (e.g. triangle/pyramid, cube, hexagonal column, etc.) and try to figure out which shapes seem the most stable.
 5. How could you build a tower using the materials provided, based on the shapes that you found to be the most stable? Below are your **criteria and constraints** (definitions in step 2):

Criteria:

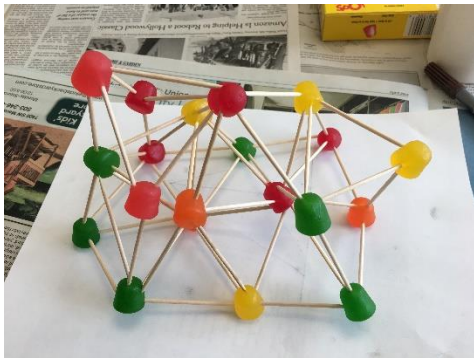
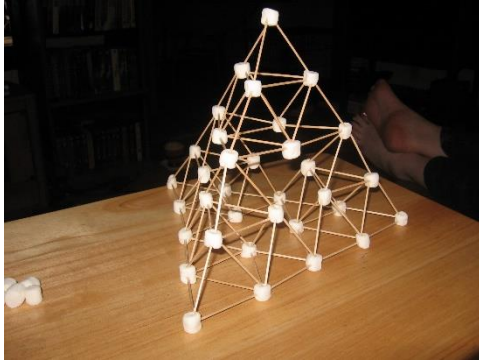
- ✓ Your tower must be at least 1 foot tall.
- ✓ Your tower must stand for 1 minute without collapsing.
- ✓ The tower must stand independently (e.g. no fingers holding it up!)
- ✓ Your tower must have a base that can be moved and lifted. The cardboard can be used as a base, if needed.

Constraints:

- ✓ You have 10 minutes to engineer your design.
 - ✓ You can only use the materials provided.
 - ✓ You cannot test the tower until the *designated* testing time.
 - ✓ You cannot touch your tower once testing begins.
6. First, spend 5 minutes planning your tower design using your lab notebook and a pencil.
 7. Next, spend 10 minutes engineering your design.
Note: there is no particular design for you to follow—this is purely creative and experimental.
 8. Once time has elapsed, have test your towers to see if it can stand unassisted. You can use a ruler to measure your creation's height.
 9. Take another 5 minutes to make improvements to your design, and then try again.
 10. Using your lab notebooks, reflect on the strengths and weaknesses of your designs, and any challenges you overcame.

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Examples of Toothpick Towers:



The Science Behind It:

What does it mean to be an engineer? What do you think engineers do? Why do people choose to be engineers? Let's find out from some real engineers!

Alison Delahunty is an engineer who helps designs roads and bridges. She became an engineer because of how much she enjoyed learning about the impressive human-made structures all around her. Alison was inspired by architecture, dams, and bridges as a child and decided she wanted to be a part of creating those things herself. Working as an engineer she says, "I love a challenge and that is something engineering provides every day. You're presented with a problem and you use your knowledge and common sense to produce a solution."

Louise Campion is an engineer who works on making our roads and electricity more environmentally friendly. Louise says she's always been an "engineer at heart" because of her creativity and curiosity. She loves designing and problem solving- the two things she gets to do most as an engineer! Her love for engineering goes beyond the fun though. She says, "Ultimately, I believe that engineers are at the heart of communities and serve to improve them- I want to be a part of that and contribute to the betterment of society and the environment." Thanks for all your hard work Alison and Louise! (<http://www.engineersjournal.ie/2018/03/06/three-stories-why-i-became-an-engineer/>)

Building and innovating to solve a problem is one of the most basic human instincts.



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From the invention of the wheel to present day marvels like Burj Khalifa, the tallest skyscraper in the world, people across the globe are constantly engineering!

Today in class we focused on towers to learn more about the engineering. Towers are a basic structural concept, any building that is taller than it is wide could be considered a tower. Towers can have many purposes: lookout points, saving limited space on the ground, providing maximum visibility of things like clocks, or acting as monuments. There are infinite different designs and types of towers possible.

Activity Two – Pinwheels

Time: 5 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Scissors	1
Tape (rolls)	1
Square paper (yellow, pre-punched)	1
Class 4 Supply Bag	#
Brass Brad	1
Pencils (new, with fresh erasers)	1

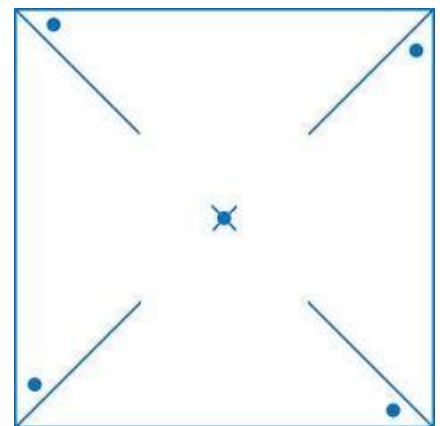
Goal: Learn to understand axles by creating a basic pinwheel.

Procedure:

1. Think about what you know about pinwheels. Have you ever seen a pinwheel?

Reflection:

- *How do wheels spin?*
 - *What sorts of things rely on an axle?*
 - *Have you ever ridden a carousel or a Ferris wheel?*
 - *Why are wheels useful?*
2. You should have a piece of green square hole-punched paper, a ruler, a sharpened pencil.
 3. Fold your piece of paper diagonally into a triangle in one direction, then unfold it and do the same on the other side. This should create an “X” crease across the paper.
 4. Cut along each arm of the “X” crease about 2/3 of the way towards the center of the Origami Paper. DO NOT cut all the way to the center of the paper. Repeat until there are approximately 4 equal cuts in the paper.



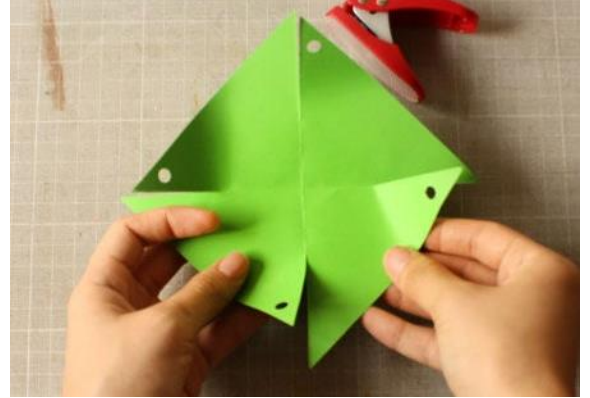
TIP: It may be helpful to measure out and draw the lines you will be cutting in advanced.

Activity photos can be found at the end of this lesson.

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5. The Origami paper should now have 4 equal triangular flaps. Your papers should look similar to the image on the right.
 6. Make an additional hole in the very center of your papers using their pencil tips (at the cross of the "X"). Widen the hole by wiggling the pencil through it.
 7. Use tape to reinforce any rips or tears as they happen.
 8. You should have a brass brad and a new pencil with a fresh eraser.
 9. Gently fold the hole-punched side of each triangle flap towards the center of their paper, threading the brass brad through each hole as they go.
 10. Put the brass brad through the central hole.
 11. Push the ends of the brass brad through the new pencil eraser, until they appear on the other side, and then fold the brad ends down.
- Note:** If it is too difficult for you to push your brads through the erasers, or a brad becomes bent, you can simply wrap the brad around the top of the pencil to hold the pinwheel in place.
12. Gently rotate the paper pinwheel around the brad axle until you have widened all the holes enough for it to spin freely.
 13. Blow on the pinwheel to make it spin or hold it outside in a breeze.



Reflection:

- *What could you improve about this design?*
- *What about the material was challenging?*
- *What worked? What didn't work?*
- *What did we learn about axels?*
- *What would you do differently next time?*
- *What skills did you use to complete this challenge?*

The Science Behind It:

Wheels are everywhere: roadways, sidewalks, skate parks, ceramics studios, and carnivals—even most doorknobs work with a wheel mechanism. But as common as wheels are, they haven't always been around. The invention of the wheel was a massive engineering step for humanity. The first wheels were used to make pottery in Mesopotamia, the ancient Middle East, around 3500 B.C. (over 5,000 years ago)! For millennia people relied on nature for invention inspiration, but no wheels are found in nature—no other organisms have free rotating parts or use wheel-based tools. They are an entirely human idea! (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/a-salute-to-the-wheel-31805121/>)

Wheels rotate on an axle. The axle can either turn with the wheels, or be secured to a fixed point with the wheels rotating around it. Wheels are as round as possible to be

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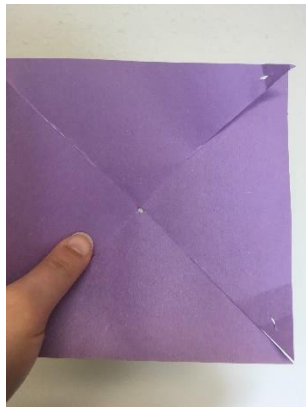
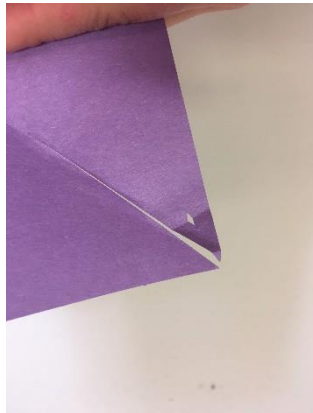
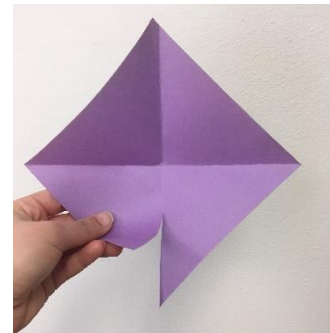
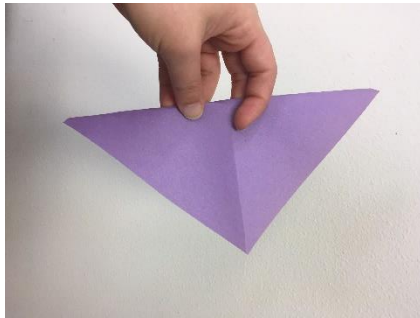
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balanced, and reduce friction. This reduction in friction is what makes wheels so useful in transportation. Trying to move a heavy object across ice is easier than it is across asphalt, all because friction forces are stronger on asphalt. When lifting something up, you are fighting gravity. When pushing something forward, you are working against friction. The more of an object's surface area is in contact with the ground, the more friction occurs. When you put an object on wheels, you are limiting friction by cutting down on the surface area of the object that contacts the ground.

(<https://www.explainthatstuff.com/howwheelswork.html>)

Activity Source: A step-by-step tutorial for a similar design is also available here:
<https://www.instructables.com/id/Pinwheel/>

Activity photos:



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Activity Three – Spool Racer

Time: 20 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Scissors	1
Tape (rolls, Scotch)	1
Class 4 Supply Bag	#
Pennies	1
Popsicle sticks (mini)	1
Rubber bands (size 16)	1
Spools (wooden, 1in)	1
Straws (clear, full size)	1
Washers (small)	1

Goal: To observe how rubber bands can store up potential energy and convert it to kinetic energy by building a spool racer.

Procedure:

1. Do you know about *potential* and *kinetic* energy?

Reflection:

- **What happens when you stretch a rubber band and then let it go?**
 - **What do we call the energy that's stored in the rubber band when you stretch it out?**
 - **What do we call the energy that's released as the rubber band springs back?**
 - **Do you think we use a rubber band's ability to store potential energy and release kinetic energy to make something move?**
2. You should have a spool, a size 16 rubber band, a washer, a penny, a straw, and a mini popsicle stick. You should also have Scotch tape and scissors in your general supply kit.
 3. Next:
 - a. Thread the rubber band through the hole of the spool until it pokes through the other side (use the straw to push it through). This will create two rubber band loops sticking out from the spool (one on each end).
 - b. Hold one rubber band loop and insert the straw into the other loop to prevent the rubber band from sliding back inside the spool.

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- c. Insert a penny into the rubber band loop that doesn't have the straw. Make sure the penny is centered on the flat outer part of the spool and the rubber band is laying flat. Pull the loop with the straw to tighten the rubber band over the penny.
- d. Put a piece of tape over the rubber band and penny to hold them in place (see photo at left). Press the tape down around the rim of the spool to smooth it out as much as possible.
- e. Remove the straw from the other rubber band loop and thread a washer onto the loop. (One side of the washer is flatter than the other—make sure the flatter part is facing the spool.) Push the washer against the flat outer part of the spool and pull the rubber band tight so the loop sticks out of the spool and washer.
- f. Slide the tip of the mini popsicle stick through the rubber band loop. The longer end of the popsicle stick is now a “handle.”
- g. Hold the spool sideways in one hand. Line up the popsicle stick handle so that it's facing toward you with the flat side up (see photo at left).
- h. Use a finger at the outer edge of the handle to wind it forward around the washer 10-15 times. Place the spool racer on the floor with the wound-up handle pointed toward you. Let it go.



Reflection:

- **What happens?**
- **How does it work?**
- **What kind of energy is the spool racer using?**

- i. Take time to experiment with the spool racer.

- TIPS:**
- **Don't overwind the handle** (20 rotations is a good limit). If the rubber band gets overwound, it gets stuck inside the spool, and the spool can't move.
 - **If the spool stops moving too soon**, try pulling the handle away from the spool to undo any kinks in the rubber band.
 - **Make sure the rubber band has fully unwound before rewinding it.** You may need to pull the handle away from the spool to physically unwind it.

Reflection:

- **Do you think the spool racer will work with something other than the mini popsicle stick? Let's find out!**

4. Remove the mini popsicle stick and insert the tip of the straw into the rubber band loop. Use the long side of the straw as the “handle” to wind the rubber band.

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5. Experiment with the new version of the spool racer. You can experiment with cutting the straw to different lengths to see how it affects the spool racer's performance.

TIP: In case a rubber band chain breaks and you need to make a new chain: To link two rubber bands together, lay them on a flat surface with the left one overlapping the right one slightly in the middle. Take the left side of the right rubber band and fold it over the right side of the left rubber band, then pull it under the farthest right part of the right rubber band. Pull to tighten. Repeat to add one more rubber band to the chain.

The Science Behind It:

Energy is always changing into different forms! Potential energy is energy that can be used in the future. When you wind the rubber band, you're using kinetic energy (the motion of winding) to store up potential energy in the rubber band. If you keep twisting the rubber band, you can store up even more potential energy. After you let go of the rubber band, the potential energy turns into kinetic energy! Kinetic energy is the energy of motion, and it allows the spool racer to move across the floor. The spool stops moving once the stored potential energy has all been converted into kinetic energy and used up. (Chemistry and Physics for Nurse Anesthesia: A Student-Centered Approach (2nd edition) by Shubert, David, Leyba, John pg. 97-98), Interactive Science For Inquiring Minds Volume B, Volume 2 by Tho Lai Hoong, Tho Mun Yi, & Josephine Fong pg. 5)

Activity Source: www.pbs.org/saf/1103/teaching/teaching3.htm

Activity Four – Cartesian Diver

Time: 15-20 Minutes

Supplies:

General Supply Bag	#
Pencil	1
Lab Notebook	1
Scissors	1
Class 4 Supply Bag	#
Bottled water (16oz bottles)	1
Cups (20oz plastic)	1
Paper clips (regular size)	4
Rubber bands (size 33)	1
Straws (bendy tip, striped, full size)	1

Goal: To demonstrate that applied force can change pressure and cause motion using a straw-and-rubber-band Cartesian diver.

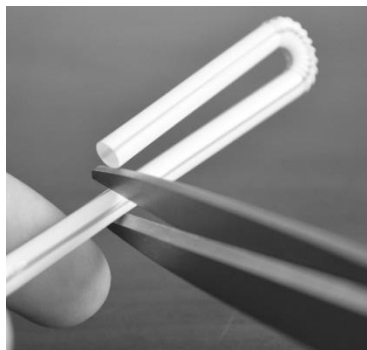
Procedure:

Reflection:

- **What happens when you drop a stone in water?**
 - **What happens when you drop a piece of foam in water?**
 - **Do you think there are any objects that could both sink and float in water?**
- Let's find out!**

1. You should have a 20oz cup filled three-quarters full of water. This activity might be best done at a sink or in a basin or Tupperware of some sort to catch any water that might spill.
2. You should also have a rubber band, four paper clips, and a striped bendy straw.
3. Next:

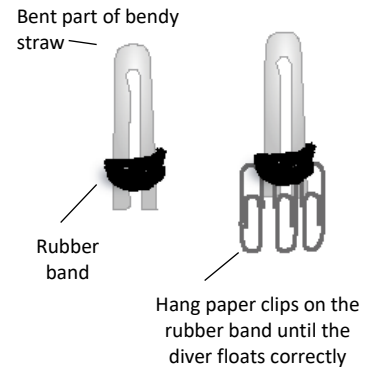
- a. Bend the bendy part of their straw over so the short side of the straw almost touches the long side.
- b. Cut the long side of the straw to make it the same length as the short side. There should be an equal length of straw on both sides of the bend.



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- c. Wrap a rubber band around the bottom of the bent straw piece several times. The rubber band should be near the straw openings, away from the bent part. This is now the “diver” (see diagram on right).
 - d. Test to see if the diver floats by putting it in the cup of water.
 - e. The goal is to have the tip of the diver (the bent part of the straw) bobbing just above the surface of the water (see photo below on right). If more than the tip is sticking out above the water, add paper clips one at a time by hanging them onto the rubber band. Each paper clip should hang down away from the bent part of the straw, making the diver look a bit like an octopus (see diagram above). Test the diver after adding each paper clip until it floats correctly.
4. When you're ready, access your water bottle.
 5. Next:
 - a. Remove the label from your water bottle and throw it away.
 - b. Hold your water bottle over the sink or basin (to catch any overflow), remove the cap, carefully put their diver in the bottle.)
 - c. Add water from the 20oz cup if needed to top off the water bottle. The Cartesian Diver works best when the bottle is filled to the brim.
 - d. Screw the cap back on the water bottle tightly. The water bottle should be as full as possible before putting the cap back on. The diver should float inside the bottle.
- Reflection:
- **Does the diver sink or float?**
 - **Do you think you could get it to sink? How?**
6. Firmly squeeze and hold the sides of the bottle, then release.



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Reflection:

- **What happened?**
- **Why does this happen?**

The Science Behind It:

Why did the diver float when you put it in the bottle? There is a tiny bubble of air trapped in the bent straw. That was enough to make the diver less dense than the water, so it floated at the top. When you squeezed the bottle, you put pressure on the water and everything inside the bottle—including the air bubble. The extra pressure made the air bubble inside the straw smaller, which changed the density of the diver. Now that the diver was denser than the water, it sank to the bottom. When you let go of the bottle, you removed the pressure on the diver and it was able to float back to the top. It's all about balancing the forces of gravity, which pulls the diver down, and buoyancy, which helps the diver float!

What else uses density to move? A submarine uses density to dive and then come back up to the surface. A submarine has ballast tanks that can be filled with water to make it sink, or with air to make it float. By adjusting how much air or water is in the tanks, you can determine exactly how deep the submarine goes. (<http://www.physics.org/interact/physics-to-go/cartesian-diver/>, <http://courses.education.illinois.edu/C1241-science-Sp95/resources/philotoy/philotoy.html>)

Activity Source: <http://www.sciencetoymaker.org/diver/assembl.html>



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