

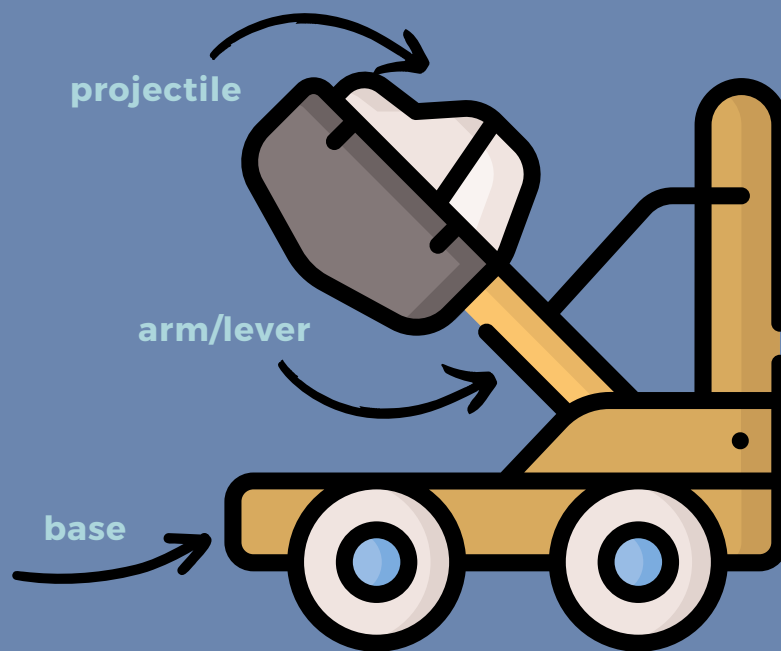
BUILDING A CATAPULT

WHAT IS A CATAPULT?

A catapult is a device used to launch a projectile, such as a marshmallow or ball. Catapults have been around since the medieval times and come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. A catapult works like a lever. When you push down on one end of the lever and then let go, it changes the direction of the force and pushes the projectile in the opposite direction.

HOW DOES A CATAPULT WORK?

As the arm is pressed down, tension builds and energy is stored (this is called **potential energy**). When the arm is released, the potential is converted to kinetic energy – the energy of motion. This causes the projectile to soar through the air.



THE STEPS:

1) Make a stack of 3-5 popsicle sticks.

2) Insert one popsicle stick between the first and second small popsicle stick in the stack. Use two rubber bands to tightly wrap each end of the stacked popsicles.



3) Place the a spoon on top of the popsicle stick stack.

4) Use a rubber band to secure the spoon to the bottom popsicle stick. The spoon will serve as a launching platform.

5) Place a small, soft object, like a marshmallow or pompom, in the spoon. Push down on the spoon and release to launch your object.

