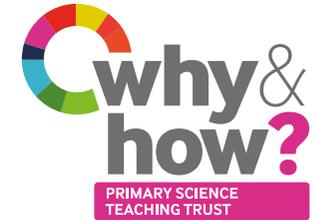




Stretchy Socks

SEN FOCUS

simple observation skills, ordering size, introduction to measure, making predictions and comparative testing



ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

In this activity, pupils explore how socks stretch when hung on a washing line and marbles are added to them.

Key vocabulary/symbols required: elastic, gravity, weight, shape, push/pushing, pull/pulling, stretch/stretching, longest, shortest

Description of Activity

- Make a simple washing line.
- Hang three different-sized socks of the same material on the washing line.
- Measure the length of each sock with a piece of string.
- Cut the piece of string and hang it up with the different socks.
- Slowly add the same number of marbles/masses (minimum 20) into each sock and watch how the sock grows.
- Compare the length of the sock to the length of the string. Which socks show the greatest difference? Which sock is the stretchiest?

RESOURCES

Washing line	Marbles/100g masses
3 socks of different size, made from the same material	String
	Pegs

QUESTIONS/FURTHER LEARNING

- Whose socks are bigger?
- Are the socks made of the same material?
- How many marbles are needed to make the sock reach the floor?
- How many marbles does it take before the sock drops off the line?
- What happens if we use socks of different materials or we try different brands of sock?

KEY FACTS/SCIENCE

Something that is elastic can return to its original shape after being stretched or compressed. This property is called *elasticity*. As you stretch or compress an elastic material, like a bungee cord, it resists the change in shape. It exerts a counter force in the opposite direction. This force is called *elastic force*. The further the material is stretched or compressed, the greater the elastic force becomes. As soon as the stretching or compressing force is released, elastic force causes the material to spring back to its original shape.