Finding Math

Ramp Race!

Build a ramp and watch your toys race! Practice making predictions - what toy will win? How fast will it go? Then, time your toys!

MATERIALS

- Something to lean your ramp on
- Long, flat object to use as your ramp
- Toys to "race"
- Timer, watch, or clock (optional)

1 Build Your Ramp

First, make a base for your ramp. Use something tall, like a table, chair, or bathtub. Or, build your own! Try using a stack of books, a cardboard box, or anything else you can dream up.
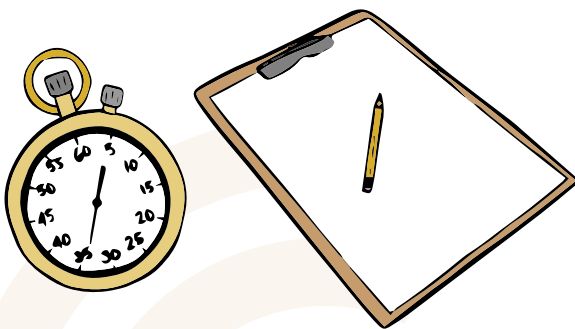
Then, choose a long, flat object to use as your ramp, like a cookie sheet, plank of wood, or piece of cardboard. Lean it up against your base. Now you have a ramp!

2 Test it Out

Next, choose some toys to race down your ramp. Make predictions. What toys do you think will go the fastest? The slowest? Why? Then, do a few trial runs. Does your ramp hold up? You may need to make some changes so your ramp is more stable.
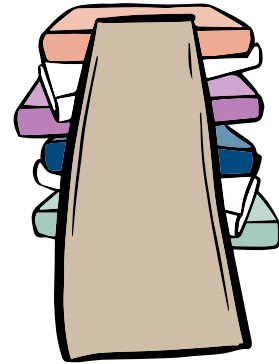
3 Ready, Set, Go

Time to race! Place your toy at the top of the ramp and let it slide down. As it moves, use a clock, a stopwatch, or count aloud. How long does it take to reach the bottom? Record your results. Now, try a different toy. How does this toy compare to the first? Is it faster, slower, or about the same?

If your ramp is wide enough, try racing your toys at the same time! Which finishes first?

4 Modify Your Design

What happens when you change your ramp design? Try making it taller or shorter, wider or narrower, steeper or flatter. Use a different material or add guard rails. Now, race your toys again. Record your results.

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Use this page to record your findings. How fast did your toys travel down your ramp? Which toy was the fastest? Which was the slowest?

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