

Acorn STEM Activity

What a fun STEM challenge for kids! This challenge takes the idea of a roller coaster or slide to a new level because kids are working with non-uniform shapes. Explore force and motion with a nature twist in this hands-on STEM activity for fall! Design an acorn chute for real or craft acorns.

What you need:

- Acorns (real or craft ones)
- Cardboard tubes
- Painters tape
- Cups
- Foam pipe insulation
- Any objects to create different levels (boxes, books, tables, etc.)



What to do:

1. Have the children gather fallen acorns or use craft ones.
 2. The object is to explore force and motion with a nature twist in this hands-on activity. Begin by asking questions to get the ideas flowing:
 - What materials are you going to use and how are you going to use them?
 - Do you want your chute to be straight down or will it have turns?
 - Where is the beginning, where is the end and what catches the acorns?
 3. When the planning is complete, put those plans into action and get designing your chute using the materials available.
 4. After building is complete, send the acorn down the chute. How did it work? If it didn't get to the bottom, what changes can be made?
 5. Let the creativity flow if they want to reconstruct and/or make changes.
- This is an activity that can be done repeatedly using the same materials in a different way or by using different objects all together.

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