

CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2002 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Philip M. Dettinger

Project Number

J0106

Project Title

Do Liquid Objects Travel Farther than Solid Objects when Thrown?

Objectives/Goals

Abstract

The success of this project depended on building a catapult, with the help of a parent. Using algebra to calculate the system of weights, and levers needed to throw a water balloon the optimum distance. Then make 28 water balloons that were the same size and weight. Freeze three of them and flung them one after the other.

Methods/Materials

On average, the frozen water balloon went as much as 9 feet farther than the unfrozen water balloon.

Results

This happened because as the liquid water balloons flew threw the air they changed into a shape with a lot of resistance.

Conclusions/Discussion

The intent of this science fair project is to find out whether liquids could cover a larger distance than a solid object when thrown with equal force. The success of this project depended on building a catapult, with the help of a parent. Using algebra to calculate the system of weights, and levers needed to throw a water balloon the optimum distance. Then make 28 water balloons that were the same size and weight. Freeze three of them and flung them one after the other. On average, the frozen water balloon went as much as 9 feet farther than the unfrozen water balloon. This happened because as the liquid water balloons flew threw the air they changed into a shape with a lot of resistance.

The persons that helped me with this project are: Michael Dettinger and Robin Rierdan.

Summary Statement

This project was started to find out if the fact that liquids don't retain any shape makes them travel farther than solid objects when they are thrown with equal force.

Help Received

Father helped build catapult