



GATEWAY REGION YMCA CENTER OF GRAVITY

The center of gravity can be understood as an average location where an object's mass lays. We've looked in previous experiments at how gravity pulls on objects and how an object's mass can change the force an object has. The center of mass/gravity can explain why some objects act a certain way.

Supply List

- 2x popsicle sticks
- Pipe cleaner
- 2x clothespins

Instructions

1. Tape or wedge the chopstick so that it hangs off a table
2. Try to balance the craft stick atop the chopstick - there's no way!
3. Let's change its center of gravity
4. Wrap the pipe cleaner once around the craft stick and place the two clothespins or other weights at the ends of the pipe cleaners
5. Make sure it's wrapped towards the end that you want to set on the chopstick
6. Balance weights evenly (middle of pipe cleaner)
7. Now try and balance the craft stick

We've changed the center of gravity which makes the craft stick more stable

For more information about this activity visit:
gwymca.org/blog/steam-activity-center-gravity



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