

Potential -- Kinetic Energy Demo

Summary

Teacher demo to show the difference between Kinetic and Potential energy.

Time Frame

1 class periods of 15 minutes each

Group Size

Large Groups

Materials

- 4 eggs
- 4 empty toilet paper rolls
- thick piece of cardboard about 1 foot square
- 4 plastic cups
- a broom
- water

Instructional Procedures

Have students define potential and kinetic energy,, write these definitions on the board

Follow instructions for demo here: [Drop Eggs into Cups](#).

After demo ask students the following questions:

When did the eggs have the most potential energy? (when the eggs were in the toilet paper rolls.

When did the broom have the most potential energy? (when it was pulled back)

When did the eggs have the most kinetic energy? (right before they hit the water)

When did the broom have the most kinetic energy? (right before it hit the cardboard)

What other objects experienced a change from potential energy to kinetic energy? (the toilet paper rolls and the cardboard)

Do the eggs in the cups still have potential energy? (yes, they could still fall to the floor)

Bibliography

Lesson Design by Jordan School District Teachers and Staff.

Authors

[Utah LessonPlans](#)