

Pumpkin Stopper

Goal: Build a contraption that will stop a rolling pumpkin or ball.

You will need:

- A small pumpkin or ball
- A flat surface (ironing board, cardboard, or plank of wood)
- Found objects to make your contraption (cardboard, bubble wrap, boxes, tree branches, wood, rock, etc.)

What to do:

- Elevate one end of the flat surface to make a ramp.
- Roll your object down the ramp. Notice how fast and/or far the object goes.
- Use your observations to design a contraption that will stop the rolling object.
- Use the found objects to create a contraption.
- Test your creation.
- Did it work? If it didn't work as you expected, make changes and try it again!

To think about:

- What real life situations require rolling objects to stop?
- Would your contraption stop a pumpkin or ball rolled down a hill or a steeper ramp? How could you find out?
- What other materials could you use to create a successful pumpkin stopper?
- Does the speed or shape of the rolling object make a difference? How can you find out?



