

# Catapult Cannons

## Supplies:


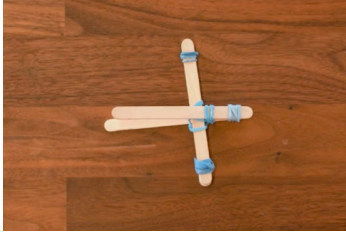


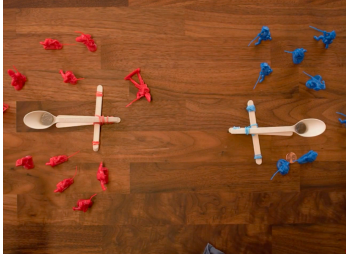
- Craft sticks
- Rubber bands
- Plastic spoons
- Several small items to launch (e.g. coins)



## Steps:

	<p>Step 1: Count out five craft sticks and lay them flat on a surface.</p>
	<p>Step 2: Stack the five craft sticks on top of one another.</p>
	<p>Step 3: Tie a rubber band around each end of the stacked craft sticks to secure them together. Set the stack aside.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Next, stack two craft sticks on top of one another. This time, tie a rubber band around just one end of the two stacked craft sticks.</p>



	<p>Step 5: Carefully separate the two stacked sticks and slide the stack of five sticks between them.</p>
	<p>Step 6: Wrap a rubber band around all the craft sticks several times to secure them. The wrapping method does not matter as long as the craft sticks stay in place.</p>
	<p>Step 7: Hold the plastic spoon with the bowl-shaped part facing upwards. Slide the spoon between the rubber bands, aligning it with the two stacked craft sticks. Ensure the spoon lies directly on top of the upper craft stick and is securely attached with the rubber bands.</p>
	<p>Step 8: Place a small object, such as a coin, in the bowl-shaped part of the plastic spoon. Place one index finger at the base of the catapult and the other index finger on the tip of the spoon. Press down on the spoon and release to launch the object!</p>
	<p>Step 9: (Optional) Repeat steps 1-8 to create a second catapult and find a friend to have a catapult battle!</p>

### When were cannons invented?

Cannons are large weapons that launch artillery across long distances. Some say that cannons were invented in ancient China and eventually started being used in Europe way back in the 1100s and 1200s—that's almost a thousand years ago! The first kinds of cannons fired stone. But during the 1400s, cannonballs made of iron started to be launched. Each one could weigh up to 220 pounds—that's a heavy weapon to catapult!

### Fun Facts:

- Catapults were one of the first kinds of weapons used in ancient times, which led to the creation of cannons and helped America win independence from Great Britain back in 1783.
- Cannons were used during the American Revolution when General George Washington's small army was fighting for America's freedom against Great Britain's massive army. The cannons back then were made of iron or bronze – bronze was actually stronger. The cannons weighed anywhere from 450 to 1000 pounds but could be moved around thanks to carriages with large wheels.
- The Battle of Yorktown was the last battle of the American Revolution that the Americans won, which forced the British to end the war. Three types of artillery were used in the battle: field guns—that fired cannonballs, siege cannons—that destroyed buildings and ships, and mortars—that were mounted on a flatbed so they could fire high across the air. The British had more weapons than George Washington's army, but the American patriots' skilled gun crews and siege cannons earned the Americans victory. The British surrendered 244 artillery pieces at Yorktown, and America won independence.
- George Washington's army and America's Founding Fathers knew how important it was for people to be able to fight for freedom against tyranny. This is why the Second Amendment of our United States Constitution grants responsible Americans the right to "bear arms."

### Extension Activity:

- Catapult Cannon Battle
  - Divide students into two teams. Instruct each team to line up their catapult cannons in a straight line, facing the opposing team.
  - Ask a question from the video. The team that answers correctly earns the opportunity to launch their catapult at the other team's lineup.
  - If the launched object hits an opposing team's catapult, that catapult is removed from the lineup.
  - Continue playing for as many rounds as time allows, ensuring each student has multiple opportunities to answer questions and launch their catapult.
  - The team with more catapult cannons remaining at the end of the battle is declared the winner!