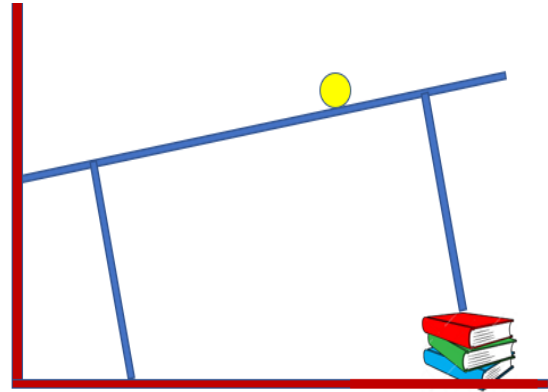


Rolling jars of sugar (Post-Primary)

Read it -- Try it safely -- Explore it further

Which jar of sugar will be the last to get to the bottom of the ramp?



Students are given 4 empty jars and a bag of sugar and are given the challenge of measuring out “one-third” and “two-thirds” full of sugar.

The students are asked:

“if all the jars roll down a ramp together, which jar will get to the bottom last?”

Teacher needs to place a table against a wall and place some books under a table-leg to produce a ramp of gentle slope.

Safety: Use a cushion to avoid the glass jars breaking.

Extension activities

- Repeat for a variety of different gentle slopes
- Look at what is happening to the sugar as the jars roll.
- Can you explain why they travel at different speeds?
- Can you find an angle where three jars roll to the bottom but one jar stops half-way?
- Repeat with rice or salt instead of sugar.
- Is the outcome different?