

Small ball, Big bounce (PRIMARY)

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

A tennis ball sits on top of a basketball until they fall to the floor.

Then the bounce happens.

How high does the tennis ball go?



This is a science experiment you will want to repeat over and over again.

Place one hand under the basketball and support the tennis ball with your other hand. Remove both hands at the same instant. Allow the balls to fall about one meter and land on a slab.

Test your speed of reaction by trying to catch the tennis ball before it hits the ground?

Extension activities:

Mark out a grid as shown and count how often the tennis ball lands in each zone from 20 trials. Are all zones equally likely?

What happens if the balls are dropped the other way up?

Test and see.

Hint: This activity works best if an adult drops the balls and a child tries to catch the rebounding tennis ball.