



Pencil Balance

What You Need

- sharpened pencil
- 2 pieces of wire
- 2 clothespins

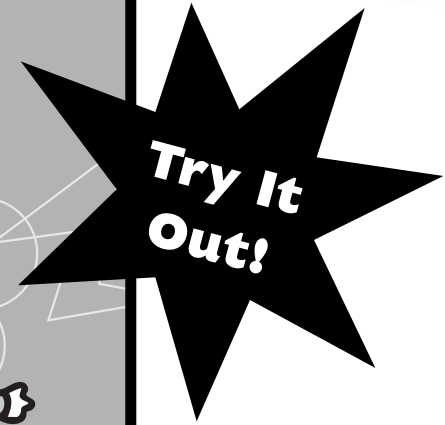
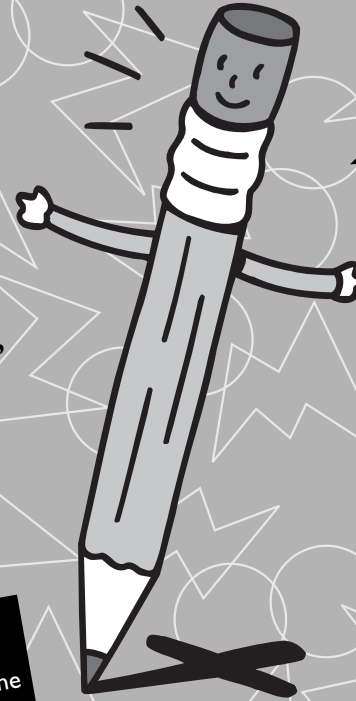
Sent in by Becky S. of Kasson, MN

1 Try making a pencil **stand on its tip** using only 2 pieces of wire and 2 clothespins. You can **balance it** on your finger.

2 **How** did you get your pencil to balance on its tip?

3 **Why** do you think it worked?

What happens if you use different materials, like string instead of wire? Send your discoveries to ZOOM.



Science Scoop

The pencil, wires, and clothespins have an imaginary point "inside" the pencil called the **center of gravity**. When the pencil point lines up under the center of gravity, the pencil will **balance**. When it doesn't, the pencil will **wobble and fall**. The clothespins on the wires help keep the pencil from wobbling so that its point stays under the center of gravity.



Pick 2 everyday objects, like a wooden spoon and a soda bottle. How can you get the spoon to balance on the soda bottle? What other materials do you need to help you do this?



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