

What happens when something falls?



Professor Greatbrain drops a weight of 50 kilograms and one of 20 kilograms from the top of a high tower. Both of these fall at the same rate and will hit the ground at the same time. John and Jill try the same thing by dropping a heavy book and light book on the floor. They both reach the floor at the same time.

When something falls it will be affected by air resistance. This is a drag on the object. When a parachutist opens their parachute, it causes a lot of air resistance and slows them down. If they jump without a parachute they will travel a lot faster!

When a space craft enters the earth's atmosphere it is slowed down by air resistance.



Please remember to recycle this activity

1. What causes things to fall to the ground?

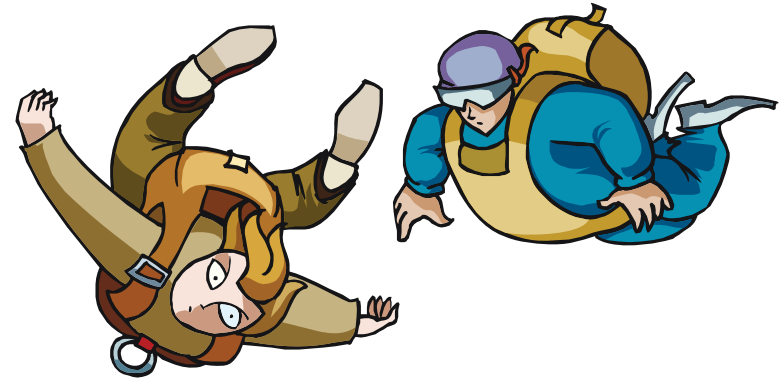
2. If you drop a heavy book and light book from the same height which hits the ground the first?

3. Air resistance is sometimes called something else, what ?

4. Do things fall at the same rate?

5. How does the professor prove that things will fall at the same rate?





6. If two people jump from a plane, one with a parachute and one without, who will be the first to hit the ground and why?

7. What happens when a space craft returns to Earth?

8. Why does a parachute slow you down?

