

Today in



we learned all about...

## Great Gravity



- We learned that gravity is an invisible force that pulls things toward the Earth. Even though we cannot see it, it is always present.
- We learned that pendulums work because of the force of gravity. The Earth's gravity makes the pendulum swing back and forth at a regular rate.
- We observed the power of pendulums when we used them to bowl.
- We were able to defy gravity by spinning balls inside jars and saw centrifugal force, the force that works against gravity, at work.
- We learned that the power of gravity helps to pull parachutes to the ground and the force of air trapped under the parachute helps to ensure a safe and gentle landing.

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LET'S TRY THIS AT HOME!



## Playing with Parachutes



**You Need:** Plastic shopping bags, tissue paper, paper bags, string or yarn, tape, scissors, a paper cup.

- 1 Cut a square out of a plastic bag, tissue paper or a paper bag; this will be your parachute.
- 2 Cut four pieces of string or yarn and tape one string to each corner of the parachute you cut out.
- 3 Tape the ends of the string or yarn to the paper cup. You can use this to hold a small toy, pennies or marbles when you test your parachute.
- 4 Hold your parachute up as high as you can or have an adult hold it high for you and drop it. Watch it fall to the ground and make some observations. You might want to try to make other parachutes with other materials and compare them to each other.

**Explanation:** As the parachute falls to the ground air is trapped under the parachute. The downward force of the Earth's gravity pulls the parachute to the ground while the upward resisting force of trapped air helps to make a gently landing.

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