

Science of Rollercoasters



Workshop	Science of Rollercoasters
Recommended Year Groups	5-9
Subject	Science (Physics), Design and Technology
Workshop Description	Discover and investigate how gravity, friction and air resistance can affect the speed of Rollercoasters. Pupils will work in groups to design and build their own LEGO® model Rollercoaster. The science covered within this workshop can be tailored to suit the age and prior learning of your students.
Duration	45 minutes
Equipment	LEGO® track and bricks
Capacity	30 students
Lesson Aims and Objectives	 ✓ Identify the effects of gravity, air resistance and friction ✓ Understand the forces being needed to cause objects to stop (potential) or start moving (kinetic), or to change their speed or direction of motion, change depending on direction of force and its size ✓ Identify and solve their own design problems and understand how to reformulate problems given to them ✓ Apply their understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures ✓ Critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products