

# SfS Away from the Classroom!

## P19: Friction (Recommended for Grades 3-8)

Please use the following resources to learn about Friction.

Watch this Video: MIT video: A World Without Friction

### **Answer these questions:**

- What does friction do?
- What are some things you couldn't do without friction?
- When friction "wastes" energy, that usually means kinetic energy is changed into another kind of energy. What kind? When is this actually useful?
- Bonus question: What are the two kinds of friction, and how are they different?

**<u>Activities</u>**: Follow these directions for a surprising demonstration of the power of friction:

#### You will need:

- Two catalogs, notebooks, paperback books, or stacks of sticky notes
- 1. Place the books on a flat surface with their spines facing away from each other.
- 2. Lift up the pages. Slide the books together until the bottom covers overlap.
- 3. "Shuffle" the pages of the books together so that the pages overlap. You can do every single page, or a few pages at a time.
- 4. Once the pages are all shuffled, let go of the top covers, and lift up one of the books by its spine. What happens?
- 5. You can attach something to the lower book, or have a friend take the spine of it and have a tug-of-war with you. Can you pull them apart?
- 6. **Experiment a little:** What difference does it make if you layer different numbers of pages? What if you use rougher or smoother paper? Does tugging hard or pulling gently make a difference?
- 7. Just how big can the force of friction be? Check out an extreme case on Mythbusters <a href="here">here</a> and <a href="here">here</a> and



#### Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

- 1. **Claim**: Friction is a force that opposes motion.
  - Evidence:
  - Reasoning:
- 2. **Claim**: Different surfaces have different amounts of friction.
  - Evidence:
  - Reasoning:



