

SfS Away from the Classroom!

P05: Pendulum Patterns (Recommended for Grades 3-8)

Please use the following resources to learn about pendulums.

Watch this Video: Harvard Natural Sciences demo on Pendulums

Answer these questions:

- Which pendulum goes back and forth most quickly?
- Which pendulum goes back and forth most slowly?
- What makes the group of pendulums appear to "dance"?
- Challenge: keep track of when each pattern appears. What do you notice?

<u>Activities</u>: Follow these directions to test what happens when you change the length of a pendulum while it is swinging.

You will need:

| 15 identical small, flat objects, like washers or pennies | About 1 m of string | Optional: tape |
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If you're using washers (or something else that has a hole in it):

- 1. Tie one washer to one end of the string.
- 2. Tie the other 14 washers, all together, to the other end of the string.

If you're using pennies.

- 1. Use the tape to attach a single penny on one end of the string.
- 2. Tape a stack of 14 pennies taped together and attach it to the other end. on one end.

Next:

- 3. Hang the heavy end of the string (the one with 14 washers) over your finger. Let it dangle from about 15 cm of string.
- 4. Hold the light end (the one-washer end) of the string out, like you're getting ready to start a pendulum swinging.
- 5. Let go of the single washer and see what happens!





Make observations & use Claims, Evidence, and Reasoning!

| 1. | Claim: A pendulum on a shorter string takes less time to swing back and forth. Evidence: | | | | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----|--------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | • | Reasoning: | | | | | |
| 2. | Claim • | n: My double pendulum Evidence: | did | didn't | behave like I expected. | (circle the word you agree with) | |
| | • | Reasoning: | | | | | |
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