Creating a Halloween Catapult



Physicists Consulting

Here are some examples of projects that physicists consult on:

Building Roller Coasters:

Physicists study forces (pushes and pulls) that affect objects. Because they study forces, they are responsible for making amusement park rides, like roller coasters, both fun and safe! When amusement ride cars drop toward the ground, they create a lot of energy! Physicists need to find a way to absorb all that energy or someone could get hurt.

Study Radioactive Material:

Radioactive material can be very dangerous! It can be toxic to living organisms, which makes it so important to study! Physicists monitor places where radioactive materials are stored, or have been spilled, to make sure that they are contained and aren't spreading to the environment around the spill or storage area.

Cryogenics:

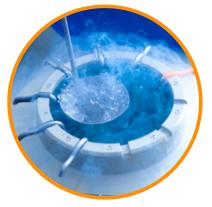
Physicists are often asked to consult on cryogenics projects. Cryogenics is the study of materials at very low temperatures. These materials can be things like live organisms, different gases, or solid materials like steel. Cryogenic gases are used in transportation and storage of large shipments of frozen food! For example, frozen food that travels a very long distance, like overseas, is cryogenically frozen.

Lasers:

Physicists are often asked to consult on projects involving lasers for home, commercial, and military uses. For example, physicists might help develop a military navigation system that can be used by soldiers in different areas in the world.









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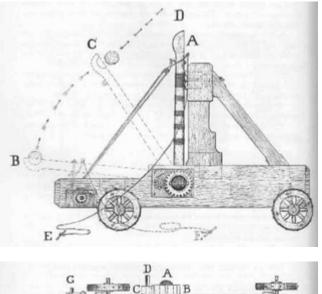
Circus Request

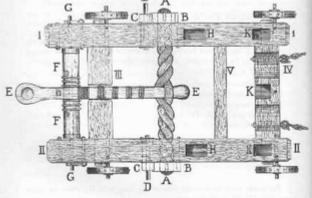
Dear Physicist,

My name is Isaac Van Amburgh— also known as "The Great Lion Tamer." I am a member of Smith Brothers Circus, based in New Orleans, Louisiana.

I am writing this letter to ask you to consult on a new project of ours: a catapult to launch candy pumpkins into the crowd at our shows!

We need someone of your expertise to help us build the catapult. Here are some design ideas:







Thank you, Isaac Van Amburgh