

Slippery slopes

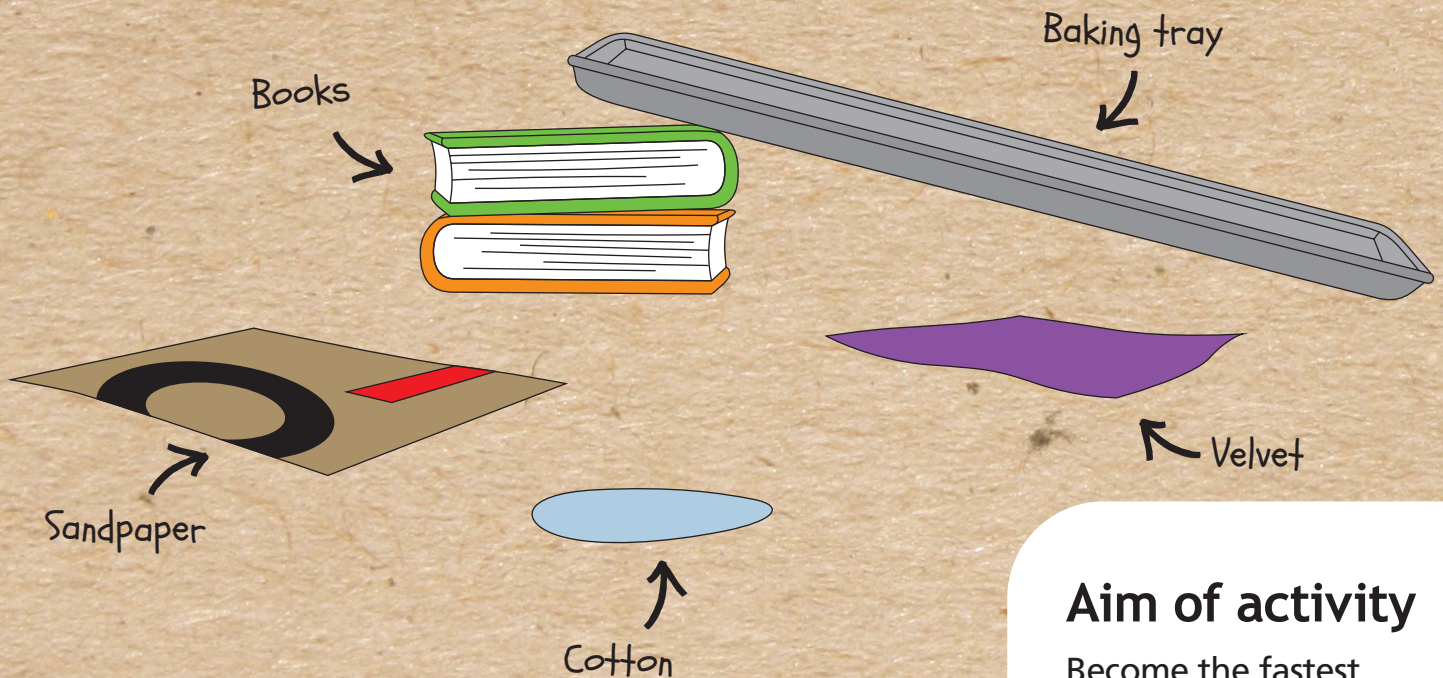
Stage

1

30 mins



Skills builder



Aim of activity

Become the fastest slider at the park!
Explore materials to see which are super slippery and which are super sticky.

What you'll get out of it

- Experiment with materials.
- Describe what materials are like.
- Sort and order things.

What you'll need

- A set of small pieces of 5 different materials per group, see Note to leader box for ideas
- Large baking trays
- Lots of coins of the same type, for example 2p coins
- Small books
- Sticky tack
- A few soft toys



WE DISCOVER, WE GROW

Girlguiding



Note to leader

Try to get a range of materials that will move differently for the activity, for example, a carrier bag, sandpaper, pieces of a rubber glove and different fabrics like velvet or cotton.

What to do

1 Form a circle and pass round the different materials. What words would you use to describe how they feel? Are they soft, hard, fuzzy, rough or something else?

2 In small groups or pairs, get a baking tray, your pieces of material and two coins. Prop your tray up with a book so it's slanted.

3 Imagine your baking tray is a slide in a play park. Which material do you think will go down the baking tray the fastest? Experiment and find out if you're right. Stick the material to a coin with sticky tack before sliding it down your tray. Make sure the coin's facing up.

Try it this way

Make it a competition! Why not race two materials by holding both coins at the top of the tray and letting them go at the same time?

4 As a group, talk about which materials went the fastest and which went the slowest. Line them up in order of fastest to slowest.

Why do you think some materials are faster than others?

Slippery, smooth materials move faster than rough or rubbery ones. That's why your wellies have rubbery bottoms, so you don't slip in the mud or snow. It's also why ice skaters can move so fast; the ice is really smooth and so are the blades on their skates.

5 Put the materials in front of you, and think about what they might be used for. Share your ideas with your group.

6 Now, on your own, explore some materials around your meeting place or home. Slide a teddy or soft toy along different surfaces and see which one is slipperiest. Try some of these if you can:

- A carpet
- A tiled floor or wall
- A bath
- A sofa

7 When you next see your group, tell everyone which was the slipperiest place you found. Talk about why those materials are slippery. Maybe they need to be waterproof or easy to clean?