

Weigh It!: Parent's Instructions

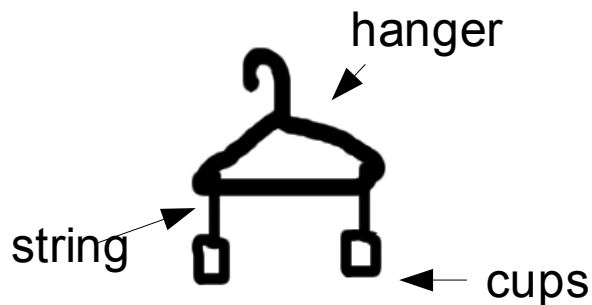
This experiment allows children to compare weights of different objects using the four steps of scientific inquiry: 1) observe, 2) hypothesize, 3) experiment, 4) conclude.

Materials:

- 1 clothes hanger
- 2 pieces of string of the same length
- 2 paper cups
- 1 hole punch
- 3 or more objects to weigh (examples: pencil, spoon, small rock, small toy, dice)

Prepare ahead of time:

1. Punch two holes on opposite sides of each paper cup. Tie one end of the string to one hole, loop the string over one corner of the hanger and tie the other end of the string to the other hole. Do this with the second cup so that the cups hang from opposite sides of the hanger.
2. Hang the hanger on a doorknob.



Step 1: Observe

Have your child choose 3 objects to experiment with. Have him or her observe these objects. What do they look like? What do they feel like? Are they heavy or light? Have him or her write these observations on the experiment log sheet.

Step 2: Hypothesize

Ask you child which object will be the heaviest. Which will be the lightest? Have your child write these predictions on the log sheet.

Step 3: Experiment

1. Have your child place one object in each cup to compare weights.
2. Continue comparing each object until all of the objects have been weighed. Tell your child to write down these comparisons so that he or she does not forget which objects were heavier.

Step 4: Conclude

Look at the comparisons. Which object was the heaviest? Which one was the lightest?

Weigh It!: Kid's Instructions

1. Choose 3 objects to experiment with. What do these things look like? What colors and shapes are they? What do they feel like? Are they heavy or light? Hard or soft? Write down your observations on your log sheet under “What I observed.”
2. Predict which object will be the heaviest. Which will be the lightest? Write down your predictions.
3. Hang a clothes hanger scale on a doorknob.
4. Hang one object in each paper cup. Which one is heavier? Now change one of the objects. Which one is heavier? Write down your answers.
5. Weigh all of the objects, make sure to write down which objects are heavier on the log sheet.
6. Look at your comparisons. Which object was heaviest? Which was lightest? Was your prediction correct? Write your answers under “My conclusion.”

Weigh It! Hands-On Activity Log sheet

1. What I observed:

2. My predictions:

3. What I found out:

The _____ is heavier than the _____

The _____ is heavier than the _____

The _____ is heavier than the _____

4. My conclusion: