

# TechResort Mini Makers

## Lolly Stick Catapult Challenge

TechResort Mini Maker Session(s) #1129



What do I need?

- Lolly Sticks
- Elastic Bands
- Ping pong ball
- Safety glasses or goggles

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### The Challenge

In these sessions you're going to design and build your own catapult machine from just lolly sticks and elastic bands.

Your contraption must be capable of catapulting a ping pong ball.

The challenge is to build the catapult which can propel the ball forwards the furthest.

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There are no detailed instructions for this challenge.

The design is entirely up to you but there are a few rules

- **The catapult may only be made of whole lolly sticks and elastic bands.**
- **The catapult must be operated by one person only**
- **You must not touch the ping pong ball as you fire it**
- **The catapult must rest on the competition surface when firing**
- **The catapult may be free-standing or may need to be held**

## **Safety**

- **Be careful with elastic bands – do not flick them in the direction of other people**
- **Try not to over-stretch the elastic bands in case they break.**
- **Make sure you wear safety glasses during construction and competition**
- **Remember not to trap your fingers between lolly sticks joined by elastic bands.**

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## Hints and Tips

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You may use as many lolly sticks & elastic bands as you like.  
You'll have one ping pong ball to practice with



You can join lolly sticks together in various ways with the elastic bands



Don't forget to make something to support your catapult and for the ping pong ball



Here's one of our designs



### **At the end of the session**

- Make sure your name is on your catapult(s)
- At the end of the first session make sure you store your catapult(s) safely in the session box.
- At the end of the session second you may take home your catapult(s) and a ping pong ball.
- Throw away any broken lolly sticks and broken elastic bands.