

MAKE & CREATE

a Mini Catapult

Activity content devised by artist Hannah Ayre

A catapult was a kind of siege weapon, a machine people used for attacking castles.

You can experiment with this design to see how far you can throw something.



Did you know...

This style of catapult is sometimes called a 'mangonel'. As far as we know, the first mangonels were used in China about 2400 years ago. Gradually the knowledge about how to do this spread to Europe, where people started using them around 1400 years ago.

In Scotland siege weapons, such as catapults, were used to attack castles during medieval times, including Caerlaverock Castle and Stirling Castle.



When an army went to attack a castle they usually took their siege weapons with them. However, sometimes they would have to build them when they got there using whatever materials they could find. Try using different materials you have at home to make your catapult.



Making your catapult

You will need:

- **2 lolly sticks** (a plastic spoon, disposable fork, or coffee stirrer also works!)
- **2 Rubber Bands** (you could also use hair ties)
- **A pencil**
- **Sticky Tape**
- **A piece of egg box** or something else to use for a launch pad

You can see a YouTube video of our Craft Knight making this catapult at ow.ly/zEyX50zhCtN



Step 1



Tie 2 sticks together with a rubber band.

Step 2



Put the pencil (or something else small) between the sticks and twist another band around them.

Step 3



Use sticky tape to stick your launch pad on to your catapult.

Fire it Further!

What happens if you use something bigger than a pencil? Or something smaller? How far can you make that missile go?



TOP TIP

Leave a little bit of stick to make firing easier