

Two Ball Bounce

Leading questions:

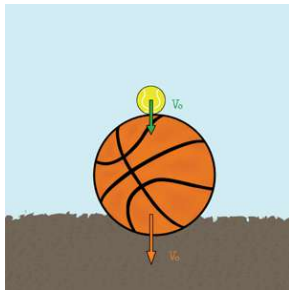
- A ball held above the floor has gravitational potential energy. What happens to the ball's potential energy when you drop it?
- How high do you think the ball should bounce back?

What to do:

1. Hold a large ball at chest height and drop it.
 - Why does the ball bounce back up?
 - Is the ball's kinetic energy (bouncing back up) equal to the potential energy before you let go?
 - How do you know?
2. Place the smaller ball on top of the bigger one and drop them together.
 - Why does the smaller ball go higher than if did before?
 - Why doesn't the larger ball go as high as it did before?

Summary:

Energy can be converted from one form of energy to another, but it is never lost. This is called the **Law of Conservation of Energy**. What kind of energy do moving cars have? Where do you think happens to the energy goes when the two cars collide?



Two Ball Bounce

(Guide)

Leading questions:

- A ball held above the floor has gravitational potential energy. What happens to the ball's potential energy when you drop it?
 - **Explain:** The potential energy (from gravity) changes to kinetic energy (motion).
- How high do you think the ball should bounce back?
 - **Explain:** The ball should ideally come back to the same height. In reality though, it will lose some energy to friction and heat when it hits the floor.

What to do:

1. Hold a large ball at chest height and drop it.
 - Why does the ball bounce back up?
 - Explain:** When the ball hits the floor, its kinetic (motion) energy is transformed to potential (squeezing) energy. The ball squeezes back, converting back to kinetic energy.
 - Is the ball's kinetic energy (bouncing back up) equal to the potential energy before you let go?
 - **Explain:** The kinetic energy from the bounce will be slightly less than the original potential energy, because of friction between the ball and the floor.
 - How do you know?
 - **Explain:** The ball doesn't quite bounce back to the same height.
2. Place the smaller ball on top of the bigger one and drop them together.
 - Why does the smaller ball go higher than if it did before?
 - **Explain:** When the larger ball squeezes against the floor, some of its potential energy is transferred to the smaller ball, increasing its kinetic energy.
 - Why doesn't the larger ball go as high as it did before?
 - **Explain:** Some of the potential energy from the larger ball is lost to the smaller ball. That leaves less energy to be converted into kinetic energy.

Summary:

Energy can be converted from one form of energy to another, but it is never lost. This is called the **Law of Conservation of Energy**. What kind of energy do moving cars have? Where do you think the energy goes when the two cars collide?

- **Explain:** The kinetic energy is used to do work (bending metal), with heat and sound.