



# Pencil Balance

## What You Need

- sharpened pencil
- 2 pieces of wire
- 2 clothespins

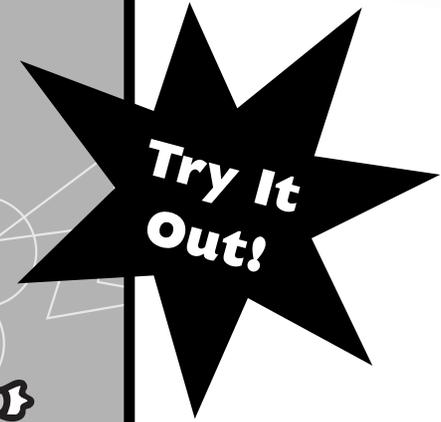
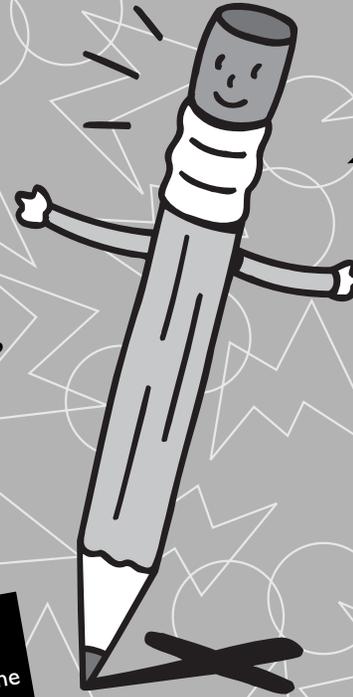
Sent in by Becky S. of Kasson, MN

1 Try making a pencil **stand on its tip** using only 2 pieces of wire and 2 clothespins. You can **balance it** on your finger.

2 **How** did you get your pencil to balance on its tip?

3 **Why** do you think it worked?

What happens if you use different materials, like string instead of wire? Send your discoveries to ZOOM.



## Science Scoop

The pencil, wires, and clothespins have an imaginary point "inside" the pencil called the **center of gravity**. When the pencil point lines up under the center of gravity, the pencil will **balance**. When it doesn't, the pencil will **wobble and fall**. The clothespins on the wires help keep the pencil from wobbling so that its point stays under the center of gravity.



Pick 2 everyday objects, like a wooden spoon and a soda bottle. How can you get the spoon to balance on the soda bottle? What other materials do you need to help you do this?



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