

# Make a Trebuchet



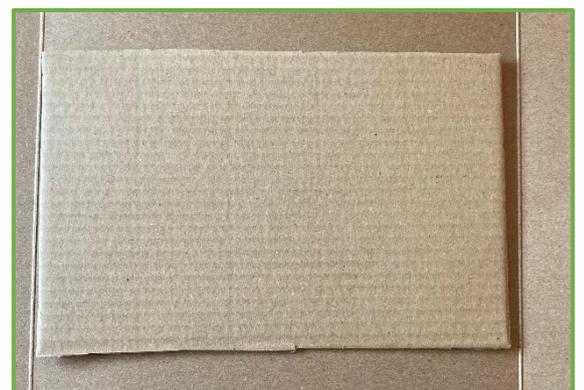
A trebuchet is a type of Catapult that was used in battles and wars in the past. Trebuchets work in a very simple way, they use a counterweight to pull down a lever arm, launching it into the air. They were used to accurately launch heavy rocks and boulders in battles and break down defences protecting forts and castles.

### You will need:

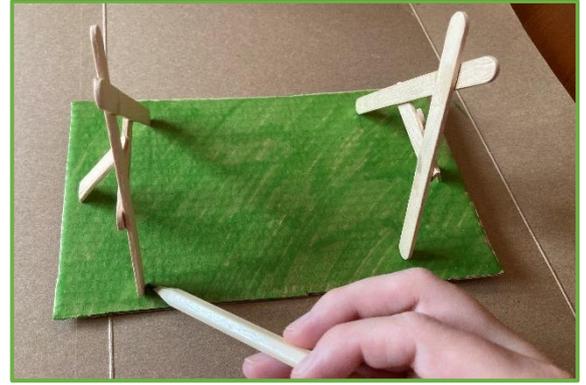
- Cardboard
- Lolly sticks
- PVA glue or hot glue gun
- Elastic bands
- Scissors
- Bottle cap
- Felt tips or paints
- Pebbles
- Foil
- Wooden dowel

## Method:

- Take 2 lolly sticks, lay them flat with the ends crossed like in the photo. Use PVA glue or a glue gun to stick them together.
- Remember if using PVA glue, leave plenty of time for the glue to dry before moving on to the next step. Hot glue guns require adult supervision.
- Carefully cut a lolly stick in half and stick across the 2 sticks as a support piece.
- Repeat this process to make the other trebuchet side.
- Stick half a lolly stick to the horizontal cross stick for support and to allow each half of the trebuchet to stand up like in the photo.
- Cut out a piece of cardboard approximately 20cm x 15cm.



- Use felt tips or paints to colour the cardboard green.
- Stand the two sides of the trebuchet on the cardboard and use a pencil to mark their position.
- Use scissors to make slits in the cardboard where the pencil marks are.
- Place the two sides of trebuchet into these slits and secure each leg with some glue.
- Take a wooden dowel (circular wooden stick) that is long enough to span between the two trebuchet sides.
- Use an elastic band to attach a lolly stick onto the wooden dowel, making a + shape.
- Sellotape a bottle cap onto one end of the lolly stick and a heavy pebble onto the other end to create a launching arm.



- Place the wooden dowel across the trebuchet, inside the notches on the top of the lolly sticks.
- Use elastic bands to secure the wooden dowel to the lolly sticks.
- Place some pebbles on the cardboard to stop the trebuchet from moving when you use it.
- Scrunch up some foil into balls. Place them inside the bottle cap, pull down this side of the lolly stick launching arm and release to fire!
- Try experimenting with your trebuchet – what difference does having a longer/shorter launching arm make? You can make the launching arm longer by attaching more lolly sticks. Or how about a lighter/heavier counterweight? See how far you can launch your foil rocks!



Have fun crafting and we would love to see pictures of your creations.

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