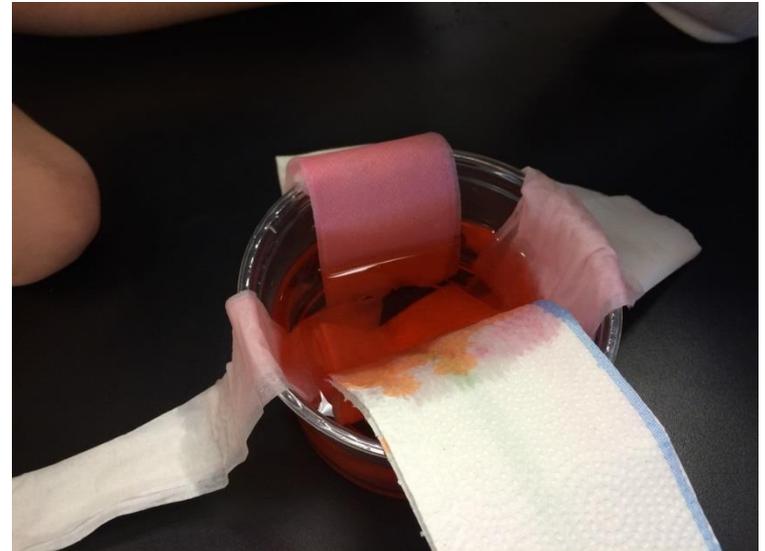


Science After-School Program

Ansonia School District

John C. Mead Elementary School
John G. Prendergast Elementary
School



Logistics

- Grade 5 students were chosen as our target group, as any increased science practice would benefit them for the Science CMT.
- We limited the group to the first 25 students to return their permission slips. We did have a waiting list and added students as conflicts arose.

More logistics

- The program runs an hour and 15 minutes, two days a week, for 30 weeks.
- There were adjustments made for snow days, as well as conference nights.
- Students are picked up by a parent or are dropped off by a bus at their normal bus stops.

Materials



- Materials were purchased for the program. We ordered kits from Steve Spangler and Carolina Biological Supply. These will be used every year.
- We also used items such as vinegar, baking soda, and food coloring for some experiments.
- Lastly, some items such as paper towel tubes were donated.

A week of catapults!



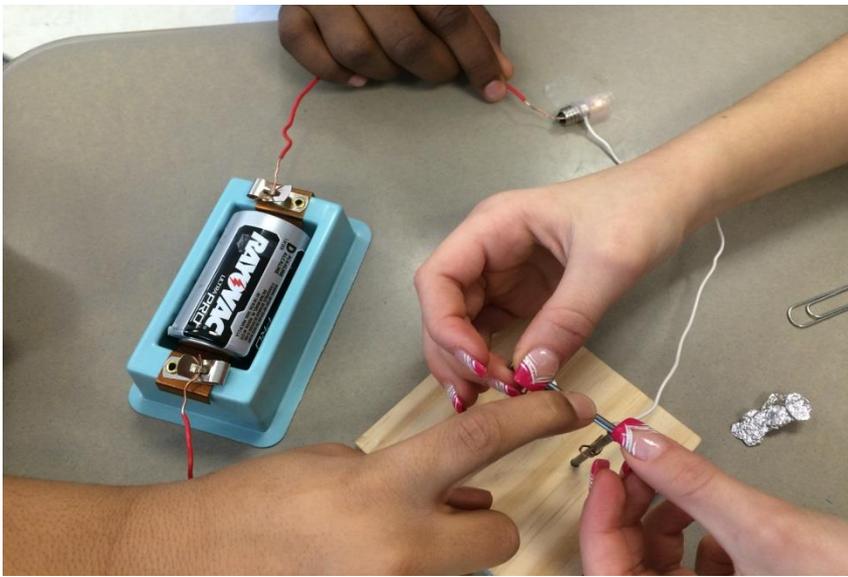
Design a catapult and try it. Discuss with a neighbor what could be changed. Revise your catapult and try again. You will have a start line and a target for a goal. You will measure your distances and graph your trials.

Lessons learned

- Written warning and “removal from the program” notices were created to address any behavioral issues.
- Issues arose with drop off at bus stops or directly at houses. Some parents felt the students were walking home too late in the dark. It was suggested that parents meet their child at the bus stop.

Lessons learned, Part 2

- Issues of misbehavior on the bus were relayed back to us and had to be addressed with parents.
- Warnings were issued for repeated situations.
- Prendergast teachers had to stay until the final student had been dropped off, which was an extra hour after the program ended. These teachers had to be compensated for that hour.



Goals

- Our goal was to provide a hands-on approach to science learning through experimenting in a small group setting.
- Another goal was to provide students the time to test their ideas, refine them, and try them again.

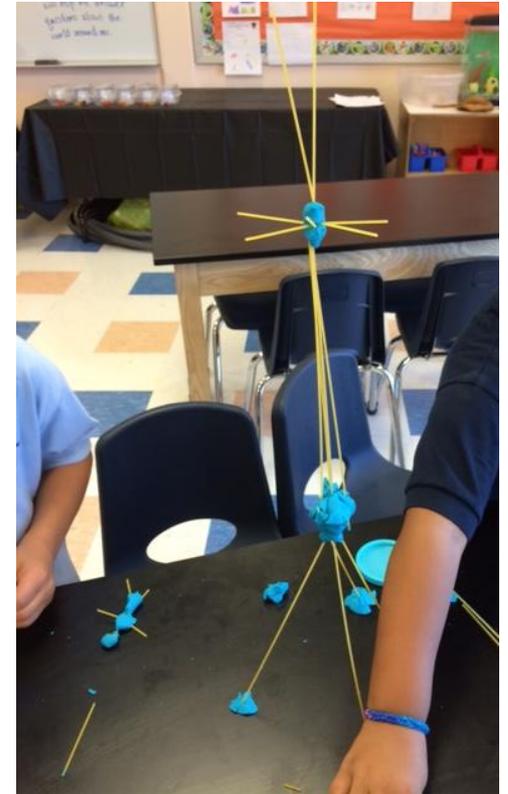
Goals



- We are looking for increased confidence with problem solving and critical thinking.
- Students chose partners and did both group work and solo experiments.

Data

- Students who participate in the After School program have shown increased performance in their Science Lab classes.
- Students have become more adept at measurement and have increased their knowledge of science concepts such as observation, hypothesis, fair test, trials, etc.



End of year collaboration

The Science and Social Studies After-School students will be collaborating the last two days of the program. We will be playing colonial games and making butter together.

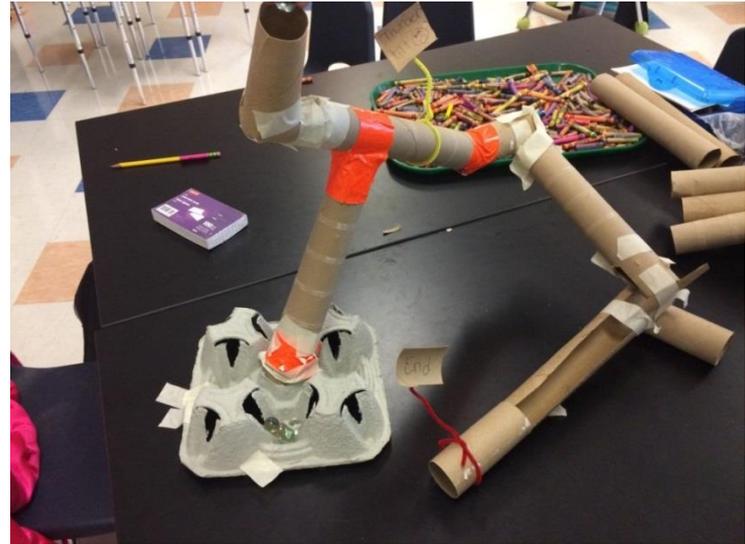
Activity time!

- Form teams of 4.
- Working only with the materials given, create the tallest structure you can that will stand on its own.
- You will have 10 minutes.

STEM process

- Students would explore the materials and create a structure. When time is up, we would discuss what worked and what did not.
- Students would observe a short video on Brainpop or Tigtag about building structures.
- Students would then have the chance to refine and revise their structures.

Future plans



- The feedback from parents has been very positive, with several asking if their child can continue next year.
- One approach we have brainstormed for next year is to have the program run for ten weeks. This would allow us to have three sessions which would impact more students.

Talk time



Turn and talk to your partner about any thoughts or suggestions for this program in the future.