Tutorial

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A NOVEL WAY FOR STUDENTS TO EXPLORE ENERGY

by James Concannon, Patrick Brown, Laura Stumpe, and Elise Bartley

While energy and forces must be taught in the middle school science classroom (NRC 1996), they are abstract concepts that students often have difficulty understanding. In this lesson, students work in groups of three to observe how varying the potential or kinetic energy on an object affects the force the object is capable of exerting on another. By recording their observations relating to energy and force, students develop a conceptual understanding of how the two are
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