

What's Shaking?

Objective: _____

Research:

Seismograph: _____

Pendulum: _____

Richter Scale: _____

Materials:

Cereal Box, cardboard sheet, plastic cup with lid, pencil, scissors, strip of paper (2 inch by 2 foot), string and beans.

Activity:

1. Cut a rectangle out of both sides of a cereal box, leaving 1 inch wide edges.
2. Cut in the middle of the bottom edge, two narrow horizontal slots about 2 inches wide to use to slide the strip of paper, one in front and one in back.
3. Using the pencil, push point down through the top of the cup and through the bottom of the cup.
4. Fill the cup with a handful of the beans.

5. Using the pencil, make two holes near the top of the cup on opposite sides. Thread the string through the holes near the top of the cup and hang from the top of the cereal box near the center by tying the string around a small stick at the box top.
6. Push the pencil through the hole on top of the cup and the bottom of the cup, through the beans.
7. Adjust the length of the string so the tip of the pencil touches the strip of paper threaded through the 2 inch slits on the bottom of the box.
8. Glue the cereal box to the cardboard.
9. Shake the base(cardboard) back and forth while a partner guides the paper through the slits.

Conclusion:

1. Did you succeed in creating a "seismograph" that could record the movement of the cardboard?
2. Why are seismographs an important piece of equipment in the study of earthquakes?

