Why Do Things Fall Down?

Gravity pulls unsupported objects to Earth



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Think, pair, share

You let go of a ball. What happens next, and why?



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Things That Fall

🍎

Apple

An apple off a tree falls down.

✏️

Pencil

A pencil out of a hand falls down.

⚽

Ball

A ball thrown up comes back down.

🍂

Leaf

A leaf with nothing under it falls down.



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Key words

gravity

invisible pull towards the centre of Earth

force

a push or a pull that moves things

unsupported

not held up by anything

pull

to bring something closer



Photo: Data: Marc Imhoff/NASA GSFC, Christopher Elvidge/NOAA NGDC; · Public



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Watch: Why Things Fall



▶ 0:00 – 4:30

- Watch what happens when hands let go
- Listen for what pulls objects down



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Gravity Pulls to Earth

- Gravity pulls objects towards the centre of Earth.
- It acts between Earth and the falling object.
- Without support, objects fall straight down.



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Watch: Earth Pulls You



▶ 0:00 – 4:00

- Spot how Earth and object pull together
- Notice where fallen things always go



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Your task

In pairs, test small classroom objects to see gravity pull them down.

1. Hold up a pencil, rubber and cotton wool.
2. Let go of one thing at a time.
3. Watch where each thing moves and tell your partner.

10 min

In pairs



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Held Up or Falling?

📚

On Table

A book on a table stays still.

🖐️

In Hand

A ball in a hand stays still.

⬇️

Let Go

With no support, it falls down.

🌍

To Earth

Gravity pulls it towards Earth.



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Best Proof?

Which test does not show gravity pulling things to Earth?

A. Dropping a pencil and a rubber

B. Throwing a soft ball up and watching

C. Holding a book still on a desk

Vote with your hands, then explain why.



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Exit ticket

1. Unsupported objects fall because...

2. One question I still have...



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