



A Plan for Pops

STEM Activity - Build A Rube Goldberg Machine

What is a Rube Goldberg Machine?

Named after cartoonist Rube Goldberg, it is a machine intentionally designed to perform a simple task in an indirect and overly complicated way. In the story, Lou and Grandad build one of these devices twice. First, to release a flock of paper cranes for Pops, and again later in the story to turn on Pops' favourite rock and roll song on the stereo.

Using what you know about forces, gravity and simple machines (levers, wedges, pulleys, gears, etc.) - make a plan for your own Rube Goldberg machine to complete a simple task. Ideas might include popping a balloon, turning something on, creating a sound (like making a bell “ding”), or opening a cupboard.

Rube Goldberg Machine Brainstorming Name: _____

Materials Needed

Rube Goldberg Machine Brainstorming

Name: _____

A Sketch of My Plan

