

What are contact forces?

Science - Forces

Miss Hummel



Answer this question:

What forces are involved when a parachute is activated?

Are the forces balanced or unbalanced? How do you know?



Investigate:

Use your hands to investigate the force of friction:

- 1)** Gently rub your hands together – how can you tell there is friction present?
- 2)** Push your hands together more firmly – is it easier or harder? What has happened to the amount of friction?
- 3)** What do you notice about the temperature of your hands?
- 4)** Put a small amount of water on your hands and repeat the experiment. What do you notice?

Conclusion:

Now write a conclusion of generalisations you can make by writing down the answers to those questions.



Conclusion scaffold:

Need help?

When you rub your hands together, the force of _____ resists the movement of your hands. When you press your hands together more firmly, it becomes more _____ to move your hands past each other. This means the force of friction is _____. Your hands also feel _____ because friction produces _____. When you add a small amount of _____ to your hands, it becomes _____ to move your hands past each other. This tells us that the amount of friction has become _____.



Answer this question:

What can you say about the size of the bumps on rough and small surfaces?

a) On rough surfaces, the bumps

b) On smooth surfaces, the bumps



Investigate:

Complete this if you have a carpet at home. If you don't, check if you have another “rough” surface you could use instead.

You will need:

- a smooth object (like something made from plastic)
- a rough object (like something with a varied texture)

Instructions:

Move the smooth object across the carpet. Try to notice how easy or difficult it seems to do this.

Move the rough object across the carpet. Was it easier or harder?

