

Experiments Worksheet

1. Make a ball of play dough and place it on your hand. Have your partner place their hand on top and gently bounce it up and down.
 - a. What is the height of the play dough before you start? _____ cm
 - b. What is the height of the play dough after your experiment? _____ cm

2. Now repeat the experiment but put the shock absorber between your hands and the play dough on top of it.
 - a. What is the height of the play dough before you start? _____ cm
 - b. What is the height of the play dough after your experiment? _____ cm
 - c. Compare with the first experiment. Can you explain the difference?

3. Repeat the previous experiments but this time give one pretty strong slap. When not using the shock absorber:
 - a. What is the height of the play dough before you start? _____ cm
 - b. What is the height of the play dough after your experiment? _____ cm

4. When using the shock absorber:
 - a. What is the height of the play dough before you start? _____ cm
 - b. What is the height of the play dough after your experiment? _____ cm
 - c. Compare with the first experiment. Can you explain the difference?

5. Describe the differences in the results. Explain how the shock absorber affects the forces acting on the play dough. What can we learn about the importance of shock absorbers?