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Trebuchet & Catapult Research

PART A

Search online and find three pictures of catapults. Sketch the designs.

Find three pictures of trebuchets. Sketch the designs.

PART B

*Go to <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/lostempires/trebuchet/destroywave.html>

*Put your cursor over the word “distance” in the blue bar that is located above the trebuchet in the picture.

1. What does the hint say will happen if you get too close to the castle?

*Choose a distance

2. What distance did you choose?

*Put your cursor over the word “launch pad” in the blue bar that is located above the trebuchet in the picture.

3. Will a trebuchet with or without wheels shoot farther?

4. What is a negative thing about not having wheels on your trebuchet?

*Choose a launch pad

5. What did you choose?

*Put your cursor over the “sling length” pad in the blue bar that is located above the trebuchet in the picture.

6. What does a longer sling add to a trebuchet toss?

7. If you use a longer sling what might you have to do about the ball?

*Choose a sling length

8. What did you choose?

*Put your cursor over the phrase “ball weight” in the blue bar that is located above the trebuchet.

*Choose a ball weight

9. What did you choose?

*Put your cursor over the phrase “counter weight” in the blue bar at the top of the screen.

10. What type of counter weight shoots farther, hinged or fixed?

11. Why can that type throw farther?

*Choose a counterweight

12. What did you choose?

*Now click on the word “Fire!”

13. Did your ball hit the castle?

14. Try four different trebuchets, document each one and whether you hit the castle.

PART C

Try these catapult simulators. Write down what choices you made that gave you a successful catapult.

<http://www.lapoo.nl/catapult2/>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

<http://www.forgefx.com/casestudies/prenticehall/ph/catapult/catapult.htm>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Try these trebuchet simulators. Write down what choices you made that gave you a successful trebuchet.

<http://www.globalspec.com/trebuchet/>

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

