

Engineering Experiments

Experiment 2: Invent a Backscratcher



Being able to recognize a problem and design a potential solution is the first step in the creating new and useful products. In this activity, you will create devices to scratch an itch you can't reach.

Materials (this is a suggested list):

- tape
- string
- glue
- scissors
- scrap cardboard
- paper towel tubes
- any other materials you wish to use

Experiment:

1. There are no step-by-step instructions for this project. Instead think about the following questions:
Why is it hard to scratch your back?
What is backscratcher and why it is a useful device or tool?
2. Before you build your backscratcher think about a plan and then sketch a picture of your design.
Why are plans/sketches an important step in the design process?
3. Make your backscratcher.
4. After testing you may want to redesign the backscratcher you made, or you could come up with another design.

Questions to think about.

- What materials were the best to use for this project?
- What would you have done differently?
- What other materials could have worked?
- What is a good design for a backscratcher?

