

Chutes and Cups

Materials: small paper cups, paper rolls left over from paper towels, marbles and 2 coffee cans. There should be at least 2 cups and two chutes for each group of 4 people.

Cut the paper towel rolls on the ends so you can see marbles when they come to the end and they become a chute.



Directions: The students will distribute the cups and tubes so that there are equal numbers of cups and chutes among the group. Marbles are placed in the coffee can at one end of the room. An empty coffee can is placed at the other end of the room. The students are required to get the marbles from one end of the room to the other using a chute a cup and chute and then another cup. A person with a cup will roll the marble into the chute where it will go through and land into another cup. It may be possible to connect two chutes. This is part of the decision making of the group. This continues until the marble is delivered across the room. If a marble is dropped it is placed back into the beginning in the coffee can.

This activity requires cooperation and communication between the group members. The group may benefit from a discussion of level, slope and degree of slope increasing the speed of the marbles.