

# What makes the ball bouncy?

Different materials have different properties. All ball-shaped things are not as bouncy as a ball. What makes the ball bounce?

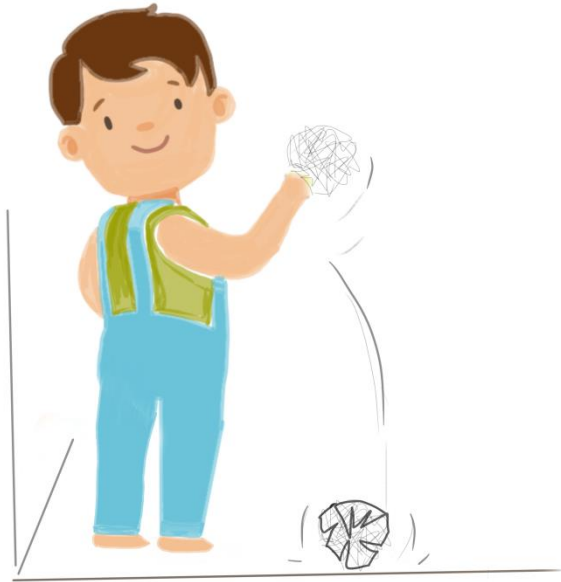


You will need:

- 1 sheet of old paper/handkerchief
- 1 ball

What to do...

- Crumple one piece of paper/handkerchief into the shape of a ball.
- Stretch your arm out, drop it and see if it bounces
- Repeat it with a ball this time, drop it and see if it bounces



Different materials store energy in different ways. The paper and handkerchief, although they are the same shape as the ball, cannot hold onto the energy to bounce when dropped. Also, if you have different balls, they all bounce more or less depending on the different material that is used to make them. That's why various sports use different types of ball made from lots of different materials, like a tennis ball is different from a basketball or a volleyball, or a football and very different to a beach ball. The material used to make the ball decides for what we use that ball.

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