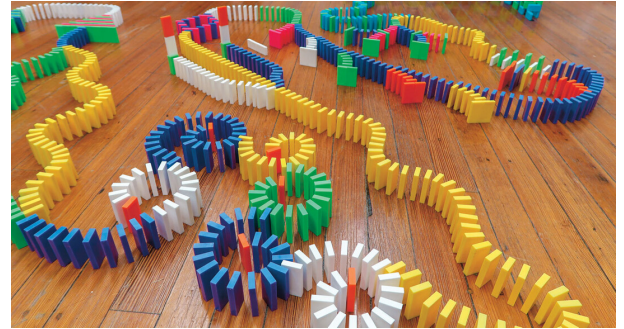
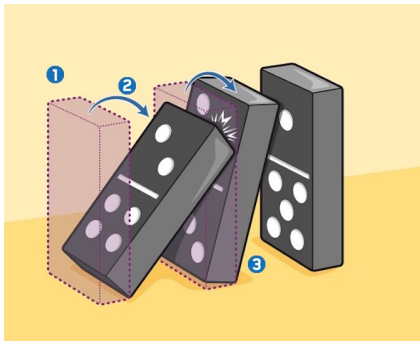


Chain Reactions

Chain reactions are a fun opportunity to explore the physics of force, momentum, and gravity. Start by planning your design on paper. Be sure to build on a flat surface. Test your design. What works and what doesn't? Make changes and test again until you create a masterpiece!



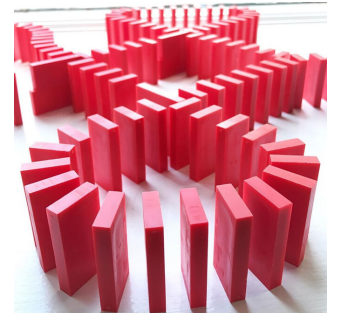
Science



Standing dominoes have stored potential energy. All it takes is a small push to convert its potential energy to kinetic energy. Energy travels from domino to domino until the last one falls. The force of friction slows down the chain reaction when dominoes make contact. Gravity pulls the weight of the domino toward Earth, knocking over the next domino and setting off a chain reaction.

Inquiry

- What forces affect how dominoes fall?
- Can a small domino knock down a larger one?
- If you adjust the space between your dominoes, do they fall faster? Did you use more or less space?



Inspiration

Experiment with curved lines, stacked walls, a spiral, or 3D structures like towers and pyramids. Spell out words or make a portrait. Try having a smaller domino knock over a bigger one.

*Divide your creation into sections to make sure they work individually. It helps to omit a few dominoes here and there until the last minute.

- dominoes
- blocks
- books
- LEGO bricks
- DVD/CD cases

Be sure to check out more fun physics experiments with books from the CLPL catalog.