

The HUMPTY challenge



Humpty Dumpty is about to fall and break – can you save him?

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ACTIVITY 1 Saving Humpty

Humpty Dumpty is about to fall and break – can you save him???

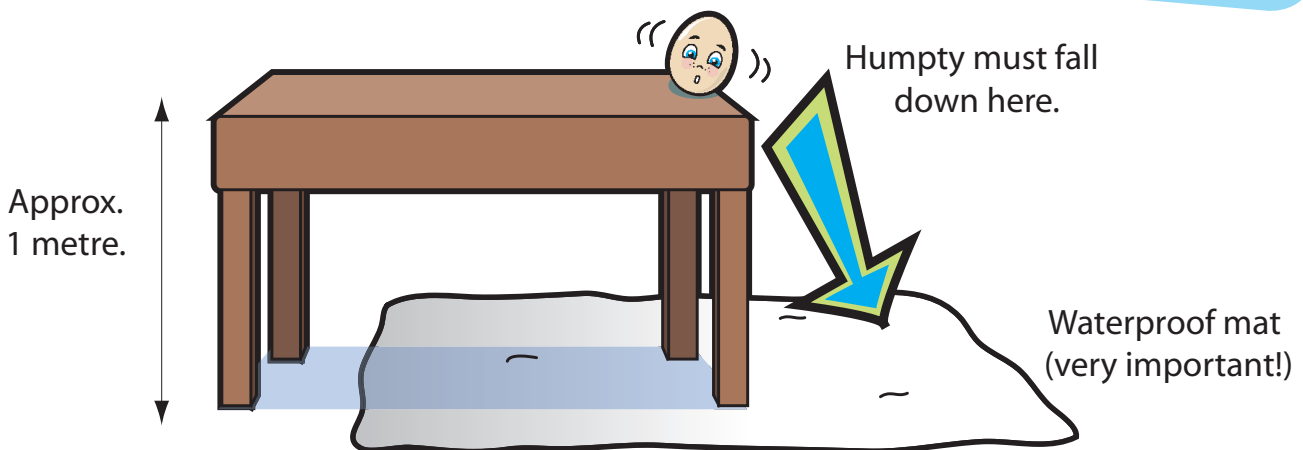
His wall is one metre high - your challenge is to use what you have learned about materials to design and build a protective casing to save him from harm when he lands.

Have you seen the
elemental
science show?

Can you remember the different properties materials have? Try out activity 1 to remind you.

You will need:

- An egg (painted with a humpty dumpty face if time allows)
- A range of packaging materials e.g. bubble wrap, newspaper, polystyrene etc.
- Sellotape & scissors
- Table (approx 1m high) with protective floor covering.



1. Discuss how you will wrap up Humpty Dumpty to keep him safe. He is going to hit the floor with a bang! Will you use something soft to cushion him, something rigid to keep him safe, a combination of the two or other ideas?
2. Build your chosen design around Humpty.
3. Once you are confident that your packaging will keep Humpty safe during his fall, place him in his protective case at the edge of table and gently push him over onto the floor.
4. Did he survive the fall or does your design need a rethink? Discuss your results with the rest of your class. Which designs worked best?

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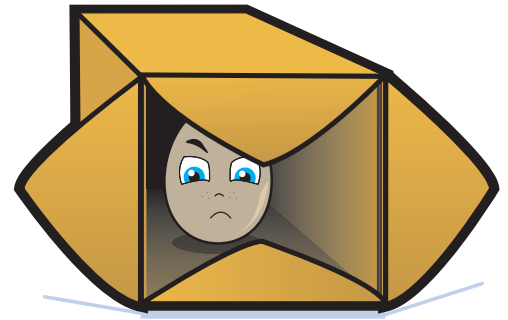
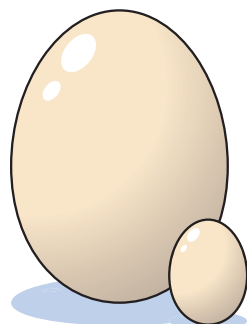
ACTIVITY 2 Humpty's Holiday

Humpty has decided that he needs a holiday but is a bit worried about travelling as his shell is so delicate and breaks easily. To put his mind at ease before his trip to the Bahamas can you send Humpty on a journey through the post and have him return to your classroom unharmed?

- With your class, discuss a packaging design that will keep Humpty safe from knocks in the post van, from being crushed in the postman's bag and from being broken when he lands through the letterbox. Remember, in case he does break, you must not let the postman get covered in raw egg!
- Build your chosen packaging design and send Humpty through the post back to your school. Will he return safe and sound?

Did you know?

An Ostrich egg can reach 35mm across and on average weighs 13kg. It is very strong. A 90kg man can stand on one without it breaking!



Additional items required:

Ziploc Bag,
1st class stamps
box/padded envelope

