PARACHUTE for JACK

You'll need
Bin bag/plastic sheet/paper or other flat material.
4 pieces of string
Sellotape or masking tape
Small toy figure

Instructions
Lay the bin bag out flat and cut out a large square.
Make a hole in each corner, thread a piece of string though the hole and tie a knot.
Tie all 4 pieces of string together and sellotape the small toy figure (Jack) to the bottom.

Extension Ideas
Create a basket for Jack to sit in.
Experiment with different materials for the parachute.
Try dropping the parachute from different heights.

A toy dropped without anything to slow it down will fall fast. The parachute adds air resistance which slows the fall of the toy, hopefully stopping it from breaking as it hits the ground.

Science Sparks ™
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.
www.sciencesparks.com
MAKING MUSIC

You'll need
Tissue or shoebox
Elastic bands

Instructions
Place 5 elastic bands over the shoebox.

Pluck each one and listen to the sound.

What is happening?
When you pluck the elastic band it vibrates. This makes air molecules near the elastic band vibrate. When the air vibrations reach the ear, they shake tiny hairs connected to nerves. These nerves send a message to the brain, telling it that a noise has been heard.

The pitch (highness or lowness) of the sound a rubber band makes depends on the thickness of the elastic band and how tightly it is stretched. Thinner elastic bands make a higher pitched sound.

Extension idea
Add elastic bands of different thicknesses to the box.

Pluck an elastic band and then touch it to stop the vibrations.

Science Sparks™
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.
www.sciencesparks.com
GROW A BEAN

You'll need
Bean seed
Jar
Cotton wool or paper towel
Water

Instructions
Swirl a small amount of water around the jar.
Place either folded paper towel or some cotton wool inside the jar.
Place the bean seed in the jar resting on the cotton wool.
Sprinkle water on top of the bean seed.
Spray water on the bean every 2 days.
A seedling should start to sprout after a few days, this is called germination.

What is happening?
Germination is when a new plant grows from a seed.
Water, oxygen and warmth are all needed for germination to occur.

Extension idea
Try growing two beans, place one in a sunny spot and one in a dark cupboard.

Science Sparks™
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.
www.sciencesparks.com
GROW A BEAN

Attach the castle to a lollystick and place behind your bean plant.

Science Sparks™
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.
www.sciencesparks.com
CLEAN COINS

You'll need
Vinegar
Salt
Small Bowl
Copper coins

Instructions
Place a teaspoon of salt into the bowl.
Add about 50ml of vinegar and stir to dissolve.
Place the coins in the vinegar and salt solution and leave for about 30 minutes.
When the coins look shiny, take them out of the vinegar and rinse with water.

Why does it work?
Copper coins don’t stay shiny because the copper reacts with oxygen in the air to form copper oxide, which is a dull greenish-grey colour.

When you mix salt (sodium chloride) with vinegar (acetic acid), sodium acetate and hydrogen chloride form. Hydrogen chloride is an acid which works well at rapidly cleaning the surface of the copper coin, leaving it beautifully shiny and removing the oxide.
ZIP LINE
FOR JACK

Help Jack escape the giant with a zip line down the beanstalk.

You'll need
String/rope
Pipe cleaners
Small toy figure
Timer

Instructions
Tie the string or rope between two points, one higher than the other. Use the pipe cleaner to create a simple harness for the figure. Time how long Jack takes to travel down the zip line. Experiment with different types of string or rope and by changing the incline of the zip line.

REMEMBER - only change one variable at a time

Extension Ideas
Build two zip lines and have a race! Experiment with different types of harness. One idea is to thread a straw through the string and attach the figure to that.

Science Sparks™
Adult supervision required. You are responsible for your own safety.
www.sciencesparks.com