Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School

Topic: Forces (Y5)

Year 5/6

Strand: Physics



What your child should already know:

- compare how things move on different surfaces .
- notice that some forces need contact between two objects, but magnetic forces can act at a distance.
- observe how magnets attract or repel each other and attract some materials and not others.
- compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of whether they are attracted to a magnet, and identify some magnetic materials.
- describe magnets as having two poles predict whether two magnets will attract or repel each other, depending on which poles are facing.

By the end of the unit, your child should be able to:

- explain that unsupported objects fall towards the Earth because of the force of gravity acting between the Earth and the falling object.
- identify the effects of air resistance, water resistance and friction, that act between moving surfaces.
- recognise that some mechanisms, including levers, pulleys and gears, allow a smaller force to have a greater effect.







Key Vocabulary	
Word	Meaning
forces	Pushes or pulls.
gravity	A pulling force exerted by the Earth (or any-thing else which has mass).
weight	The measure of the <mark>force</mark> of gravity on an object.
mass	A measure of how much matter (or 'stuff') is inside an object.
friction	A force that acts between two surfaces or objects that are moving, or trying to move, across each other.
air resistance	A type of friction caused by air pushing against any moving object.
water resistance	A type of friction caused by water pushing against any moving object.
buoyancy	An object is buoyant if it floats. This is because the weight of the object is equal to the upthrust.
streamlined	When an object is shaped to minimise the effects of air or waterresistance.
upthrust	A <mark>force</mark> that pushes objects up, usually in water.

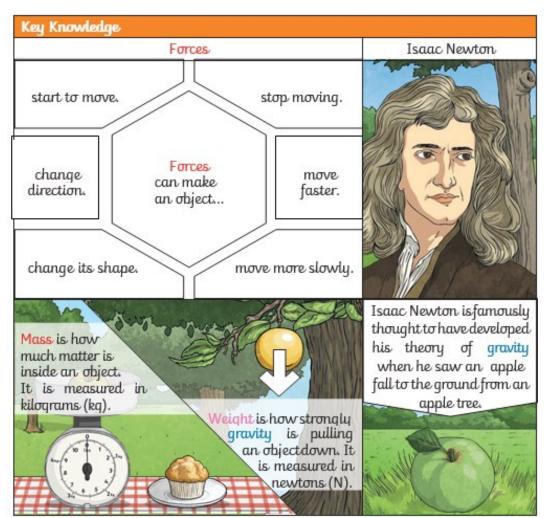
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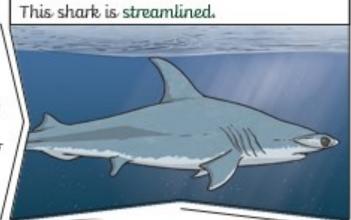






Water resistance and air resistance are forms of friction. Friction is sometimes helpful and sometimes unhelpful. For example, air resistance is helpful as it stops the skydiver hitting the ground at high speed. Friction on a bike chain can make the bike harder to pedal so it is unhelpful.

It has a pointed nose to cut through the water, and a smooth, low, curved back to allow the water to flow over and around it.



It does not create much water resistance so it can move through the water quickly.