

Introducing Forces

You need

★ science books on forces and/or access to the Internet

★ a classmate

Activity

Our class is investigating forces.
My dad says that's physics!

I did a search on forces. Some
of the sites are way too hard for
me to understand, but I did find
some for students my age.

Mrs Smith wrote this on the whiteboard:

**A force is a push or a pull.
Gravity is a force.**

With a classmate:

1. Discuss:
 - a. what forces are acting when you bowl a tenpin bowling ball
 - b. some examples of things you push and things you pull
 - c. what happens when you apply a force.
2. Find out what force has to do with:
 - a. the Moon orbiting Earth
 - b. an apple falling to the ground
 - c. gravity, in relation to the Earth.
3. Discuss the meanings of mass and weight.
How are they different?

**Mass: a measure of how much
"stuff" (matter) is in an object**
**Weight: a measure of how hard
gravity is pulling on an object**

You can't see forces, but
you can see what effect
they have on an object!

A small mass is easier
to push or pull than a
large mass.

Focus

Finding out about forces