

**Chapter 7**

Use with Section 1

**ENRICHMENT****● Gravity****How does slope affect the rate of descent of an object?***Complete the activity and then answer the questions.***Materials**

one 2-meter-long piece of cove molding or two metersticks  
 if you use metersticks, masking tape and 4 meters of about 1½-inch-wide cardboard strips

a playing marble  
 stopwatch  
 boxes, books, or low tables  
 pen or pencil  
 protractor

**Advance Preparation**

If cove molding is unavailable, use masking tape to securely tape the ends of two metersticks together. Tape cardboard strips to the sides of the metersticks to create edges that will prevent the marble from falling off the metersticks.

**Procedure**

1. Prop the molding on boxes, books, or tables so that it inclines at  $10^\circ$  with the horizontal.
2. Ask a partner to use the stopwatch to time the descent of the marble from the time it is released onto the molding to the time it rolls onto the floor.
3. Start the marble at the top of the stick.
4. In the table below, record the height at the top of the stick and the time of the descent.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 three times, increasing the slope of the molding  $10^\circ$  each time.

**Data and Observations**

Slope	Height	Time	Slope	Height	Time
$10^\circ$			$30^\circ$		
$20^\circ$			$40^\circ$		

**Analyze**

1. Study your data. When did the marble move the fastest? When did the marble move the slowest?

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2. Can you identify a relationship between steepness and time? For example, when you double the number of degrees of slope, how does the time change? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Conclude and Apply**

3. Why does the amount of slope affect the rate of descent? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What effect would you expect the amount of slope to have on a rockslide or mudflow?

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