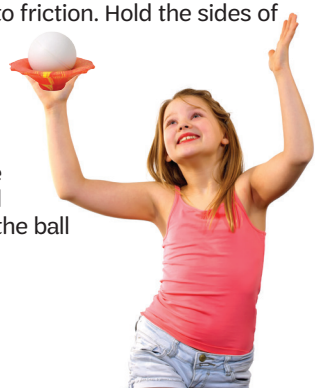
girl scouts
of eastern washington
and northern idaho

PING PONG POP

Elastic potential energy is energy that is stored as a result of deformation on an elastic object, such as a spring or a rubber band. With the Ping Pong Pop activity, you'll take both the booming and blasting to a new, hands-on level. So, what are you waiting for? Blast a ball with this powerful pop of the ping pong and learn a little something about combustion.

Directions: Store energy in the popper by turning it inside out. Then place the ping pong ball in the "bowl" of the popper. The bulge should be on the bottom of the popper so the ping pong ball fits securely inside. Now, the ball is squeezed into the popper pretty tightly, so it will take a lot of air pressure to fling it into the air. This is due to friction. Hold the sides of the bowl and wait for the popper to turn itself right with a POP! The weight of your ping pong ball will fly up into the air with such rapid force, you'll have to be careful where you allow it to combust.



Why did the ping pong ball pop so high into the air? The answer, my friends, is SCIENCE! Once the air pressure exceeded the necessary force to overcome the friction, the force caused the ball to blast up, up, and away!

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The learning pyramid shows that people retain about 5% of information by hearing about it, 10% by reading about it, 30% by seeing it, and 75% by doing it themselves. When kids get their hands on exciting activities, it can inspire them to learn.

77% of girls say that, because of Girl Scouts, they are considering a career in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics).

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