

Questions re: Making Your Own Catapult

1. How are you able to shoot a marshmallow closer or further away?
2. When the marshmallow goes as far as possible, how much did the elastic band stretch compared to when the marshmallow didn't go far?
3. Where did the movement energy of the marshmallow come from?

We saw in this activity that if you stretch an elastic band, you can produce movement. The stored energy in the band when it is stretched has the potential to do work. We call the stored energy in the elastic band potential energy because it has the potential to do something for us later. But what does the word potential mean?

4. What does the word, potential mean? (Look up a definition for potential in your dictionary.)