

Lesson 4: Instructions are Everything

JEA One Story Fall 2020

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

“Instructions are everything now. So many things need instructions. It’s a career in itself.”-
Godwyn Morris, founder of Dazzling Discoveries

This lesson is designed for several purposes and can be used in multiple ways. Dazzling Discoveries offers DIY paper crafts such as catapults and paper cities. Students can create these paper engineering projects at home with the bare minimum of supplies.

What you do with this lesson is up to you! Some possible uses include 1) teambuilding 2) practice for making DIY videos or creating photo essays 3) writing practice kids can use for creating How To or Life Hacks stories 4) Helping students write more clearly about process 5) Letting students practice creating multimedia stories by having each student in the group create a different aspect of a multimedia project based around one of the paper projects. 6) Helping student editors give clear and focused directions.

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will construct paper catapult
2. For Teambuilding: have students work in teams to create the paper projects or, if students are at home, create them and share them
3. Students will explore writing instructions clearly
4. Students may practice filming, video editing, or still photography or illustration to create step-by-step instructions

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. Dazzling Discoveries website: free downloads to projects can be found here:

<https://www.dazzlingdiscoveries.com/engineeringwithpaper>

2. Paper and tape

ACTIVITY

1. Build a catapult using At Home article “How to Build a Catapult.” Different strategies include walking through it step-by-step or allowing students to attempt the project with just the instructions, not knowing what they’re making.
2. Review the article on this topic from the At Home section. Discuss how an introduction can frame a task or practice, giving historical context and also current purpose.
3. Catapult creator Godwyn Morris had the following to say about writing instructions:

“Draft it the same way you would draft an essay. Write out everything and then go back and get rid of what you don’t need.”

“You need to pick the angle that fits your audience the best. All our projects can be ‘everyday metaphors.’ For example, we use catapults to teach seatbelt safety.”

“It often seems more obvious than it really is. This is challenging. You have to imagine what it’s like to not know it really well.”

“Pretend you’re listening to the instructions you write. Picture someone following your instructions, seeing what they would see if they had to follow your instructions.”

4. Give students the challenge to write instructions describing a task they’re familiar with. For student editors, this might be a newsroom practice they want student reporters to follow.
5. Brainstorm with students as to how they could use the catapult project in their social media.

Build Yourself A Catapult

With a few folds and some tape you can lay siege at home.

BY GODWYN MORRIS AND PAULA FRISCH



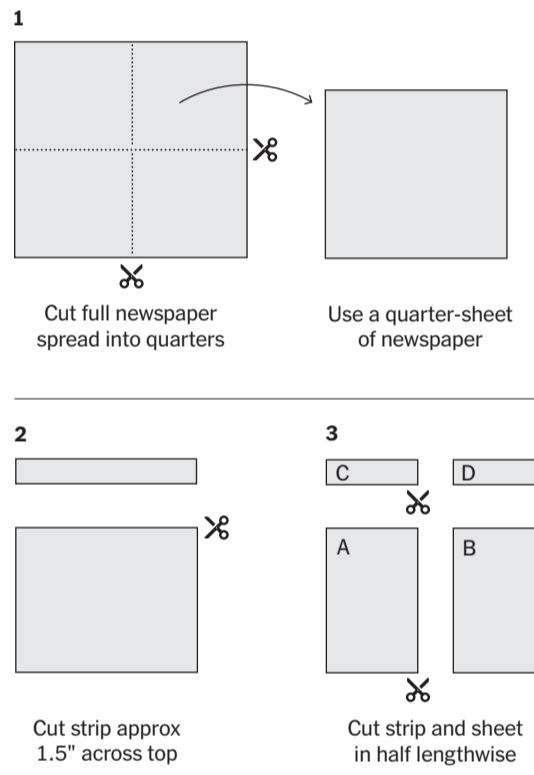
JANELLE JONES FOR THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE USE OF CATAPULTS can be traced to the Greeks, Romans and Chinese more than 2,000 years ago. They were particularly popular during the Middle Ages as a way to launch projectiles over the walls of forts and castles. The catapult mechanism, also known as a lever, was, and still is, used to lift and move objects. If you have ever tossed a ball or played on a seesaw you have experienced the power of a lever.

A catapult is a great way to model energy transfer and show that an object will keep moving if it can. It reveals the role physics plays in sports and physical games, and makes clear the importance of seatbelts in cars: When the catapult arm stops moving, the crumpled paper projectile keeps going.

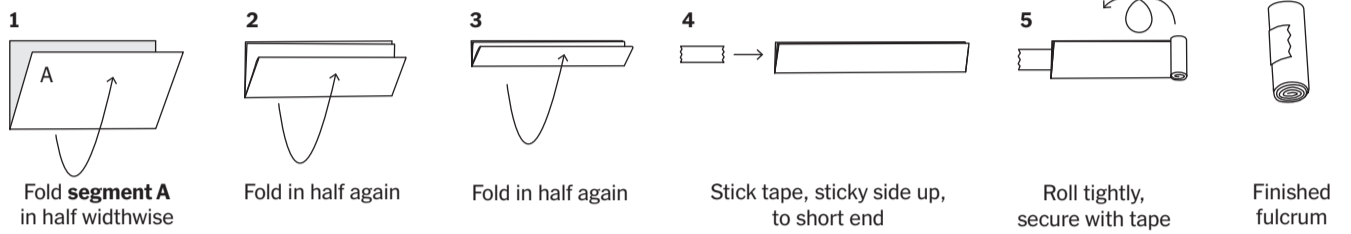
OK, let's play. You can build your own tossing game from newspaper and tape. Here's how to make a catapult launcher and a basket target.

PREP YOUR PAPER

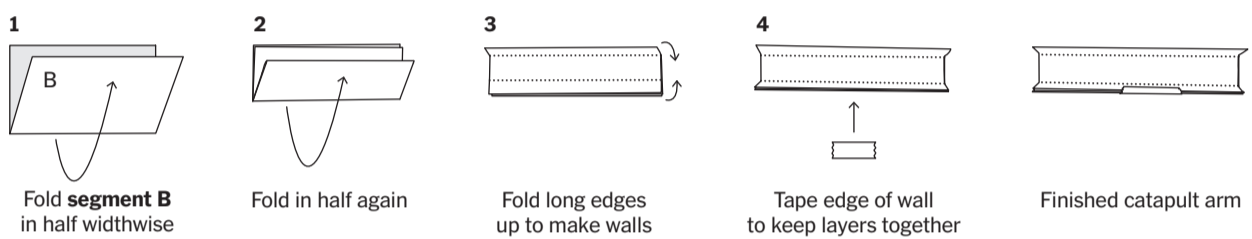


Send us photographs of your catapults, or ideas for crafts that involve newspaper. Email us at athome@nytimes.com.

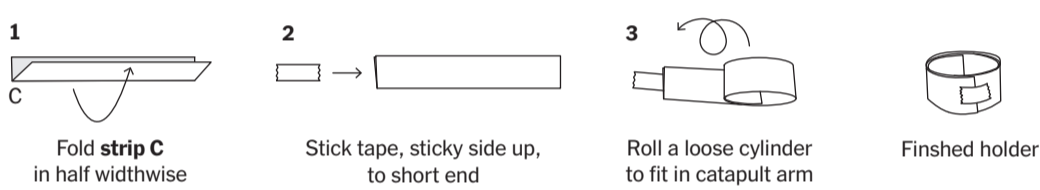
ROLL THE FULCRUM



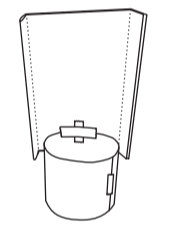
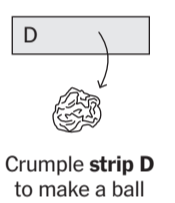
FOLD THE ARM



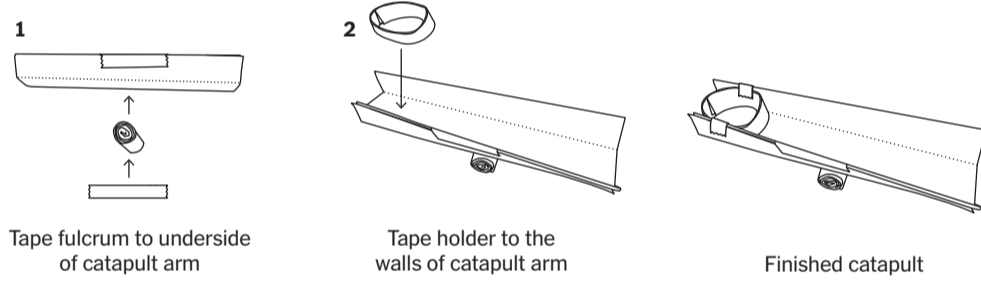
MAKE A HOLDER



MAKE PAPER BALL AND TARGET



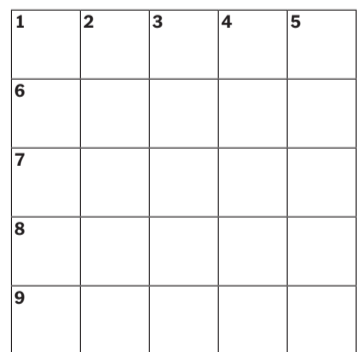
ASSEMBLE THE CATAPULT



Solve These Crosswords

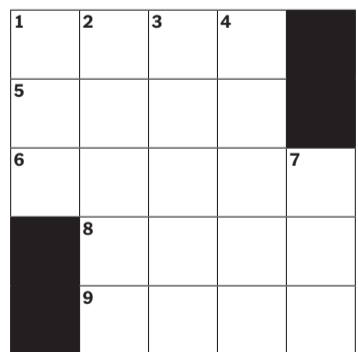
Requests? Dedications? Complaints? Follow the directions above the fold to reach the editors.

EDITED BY JOEL FAGLIANO



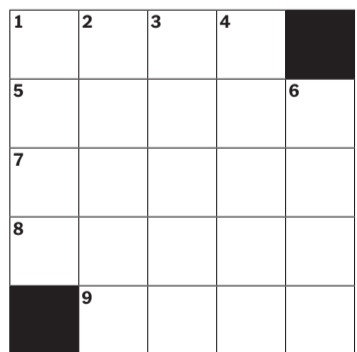
PUZZLE BY EMILY CARROLL

- ACROSS**
 1 Symbolic yet insubstantial
 6 Innocent response from the accused
 7 Poetic feet
 8 Welcome
 9 Drops in the mailbox
- DOWN**
 1 Components of 5-Down
 2 Windy City airport
 3 Susan G. ___ (breast cancer nonprofit)
 4 Journalist on the front lines
 5 Homes in trees



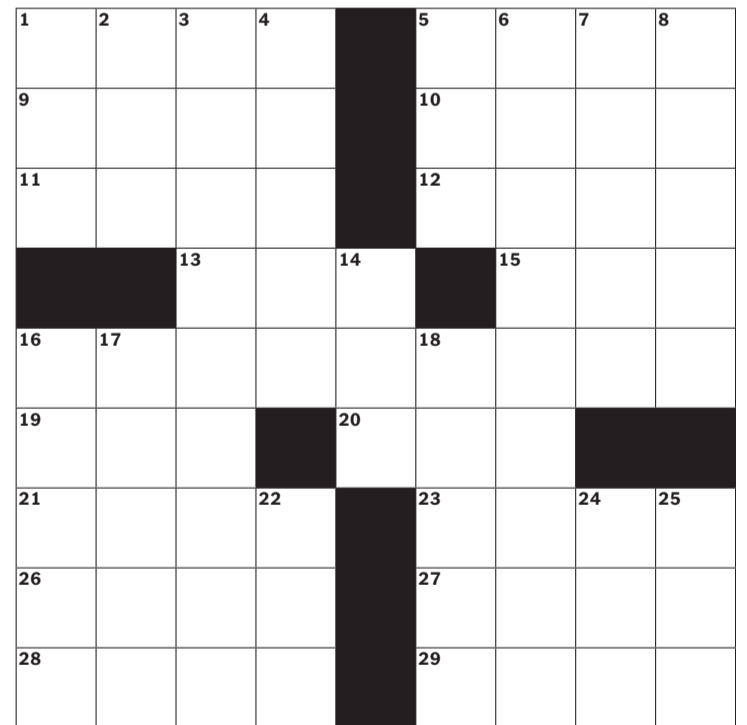
PUZZLE BY WYNA LIU

- ACROSS**
 1 Off-road wheels, for short
 5 Bit of rain
 6 Finger or toe
 8 Veggie placed over the eye at a spa
 9 Like a hawk's vision
- DOWN**
 1 Put two and two together, say
 2 Bridge player's goal
 3 "Paris Is Burning" dance
 4 Emphatic end zone celebration
 7 Noted Downing Street address



PUZZLE BY JOEL FAGLIANO

- ACROSS**
 1 "As if that weren't enough ..."
 5 Attractively muscular
 7 World's largest democracy
 8 Regatta boat
 9 Word that might be changed to "heck"
- DOWN**
 1 They follow upsilons in the Greek alphabet
 2 Break in the workday
 3 More than is required
 4 LinkedIn listing
 6 "You folks," down South



PUZZLE BY DAVID STEINBERG

- ACROSS**
 1 Hunting outfit, for short
 5 Spotify, Instagram, Uber, etc.
 9 Sadly, to Shakespeare
 10 Lightning-fast Usain
 11 *Danger
 12 *You're reading one
 13 Light touch
 15 Smartphone reception letters
 16 *Addition or subtraction
 19 Angry dog sound
 20 Victory
 21 *Long prison sentence
 23 What each of the starred answers also is
 26 Large flightless birds
 27 British prep school
 28 Popular PC brand
 29 Oboe accessory

- 7 Dethroned planet
 8 Dutch painter Jan
 14 Furry foot
 16 Looked leeringly at
 17 Like the number 17
 18 Cat with Bengal and Siberian varieties
 22 Immigrants' course: Abbr.
 24 Bartender on "The Simpsons"
 25 Apt final entry

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS



Read about and comment on each puzzle: [nytimes.com/wordplay](https://www.nytimes.com/wordplay)
 Learn how to solve a New York Times Crossword: [nytimes.com/solvingguide](https://www.nytimes.com/solvingguide)

For more Mini and Midi puzzles like this, download the New York Times crossword app or visit [nytimes.com/games](https://www.nytimes.com/games).

- DOWN**
 1 Expensive Sweet 16 present
 2 Boxer who defeated Frazier
 3 Expertly executed
 4 Schindler of "Schindler's List"
 5 "The Bachelor" network
 6 Fertilize like a bee