

PK Challenges

Jelly Baby Waves

What is this activity about?

To explore how waves behave using items that you might already have at home. If you wash your hands and keep things clean, you can even eat some of your experiment afterwards!

What you need:

- Jelly Babies (1 large bag)
- 10 - 50 max wood skewers/sticks
- a ruler
- Gaffa tape (duct tape)
- You might also find a marker pen useful

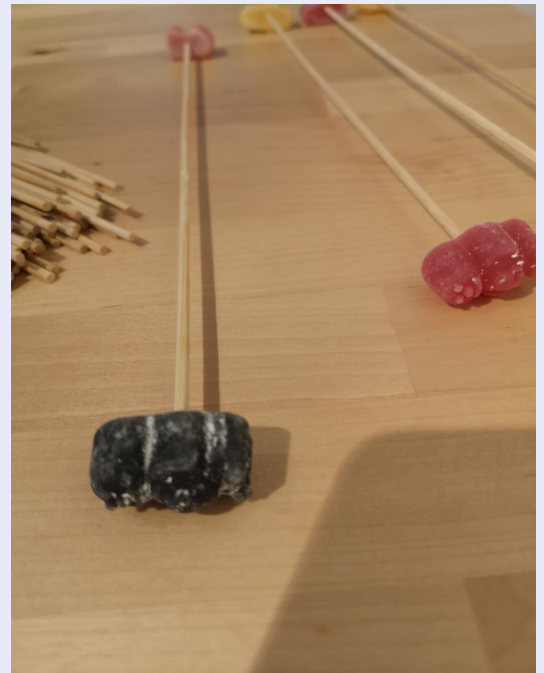


How is it linked to PK Porthcurno?

From sound travelling through the air, to light in fibre optic cables, knowing how different kinds of waves behave has always been an important part of communications technology.

What to do:

Fix a jelly baby to each end of some skewers
- it took ten skewers at 30cm spacing to
cross my kitchen!

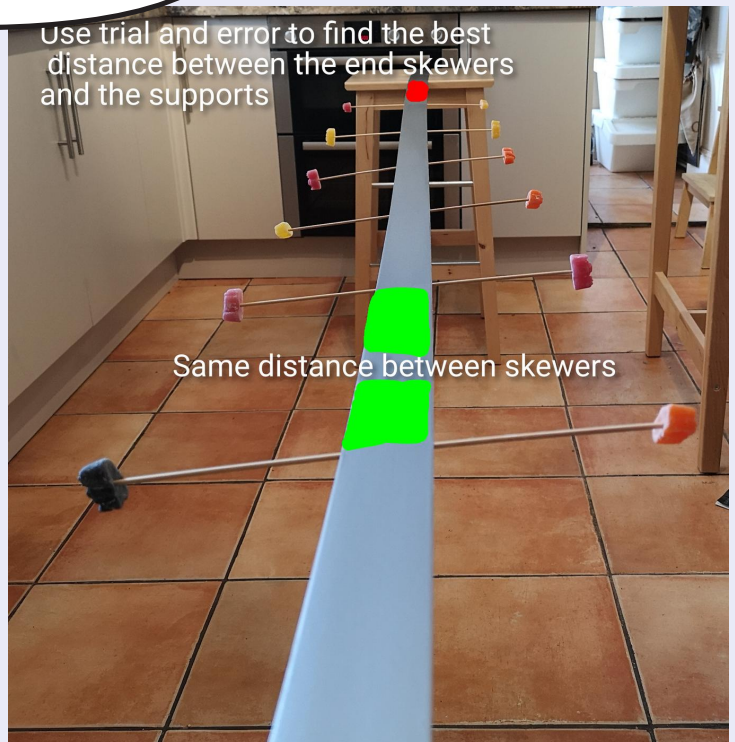


Place the sticks at equal
distances along
the tape.

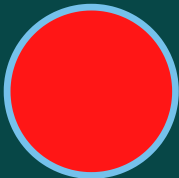
You will need to support the
ends of your tape. You will
probably use furniture.
Check that the tape will not
damage the furniture!



Use trial and error to find the best
distance between the end skewers
and the supports



Once you're set up, push down one side
of one of the end skewers, let go and
watch the wave travel along the tape.



Things to explore

- Does your wave travel smoothly and bounce back? Experiment with the gap between the end skewers and the supports.
- Does it make a difference if you use heavier or lighter jelly sweets?
- Does the distance between skewers make a difference?
- What about using more or fewer skewers?

Did you know?



Light travels about a million times faster than sound in air.

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We'd love to see your pictures!

   PKPorthcurno

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