

Thoughts For Teachers – Conduct an Experiment

Each group of three to four students needs shelled, whole, blanched peanuts and a meter stick. Different kinds of peanuts will produce different ranges of data.

Important: The instructor must experiment before class to determine an appropriate range over which to drop the peanuts or structure the class to design this component in the experiment process.

Some blanched peanuts broke relatively easily, and a smaller range of 5-30 centimeters was needed. A brand of Spanish peanuts broke less easily and required a range of 0.5 meters to 3 meters. One bag is usually sufficient for every 12 students if the students work in groups of three to four.

Some students are highly allergic to peanuts and peanut oil. Check with the students before conducting the experiment.

Reflecting back on the guiding questions will help students keep in mind the purpose behind the investigation.

Have the crows minimized the work in dropping a whelk?

What is the relationship between the number of drops and the height of the drop?

Students are sometimes bothered by not knowing whether or not the vertical asymptote should be at 0. The location of the vertical asymptote is not intended to be answered definitively at this point. Instead the question should remain an open issue.