

KINETIC DOMINOES

Fun and educational! Learn about potential and kinetic energy by just playing with dominoes!

SUPPLIES

Dominoes

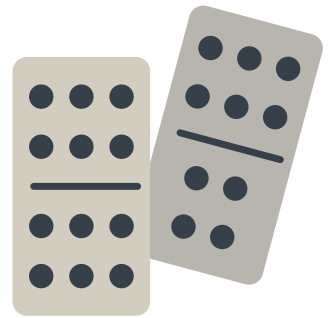
INSTRUCTIONS

STEP 1: Stand up a row of dominoes.

STEP 2: Push down the first domino in the row, stand back, and watch kinetic energy happening!

THE SCIENCE

The science of potential and kinetic energy behind a row of falling dominoes involves the transformation of energy as the dominoes are set in motion.



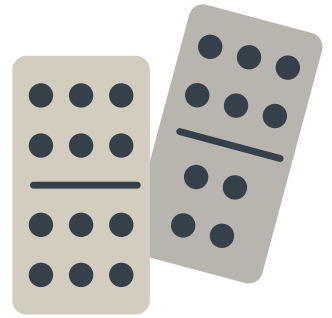
Each domino in the row has potential energy due to its height above the ground. The higher the domino, the more potential energy it possesses. This potential energy is stored energy.

To start the chain reaction, you give the first domino a slight push. This initial push imparts kinetic energy to the first domino. Kinetic energy is the energy of motion, and the domino begins to move.

As the first domino falls, it loses potential energy and gains kinetic energy because the domino is in motion. As it topples, it transfers some of its kinetic energy to the next domino in the row through a collision. This process continues down the line, with each falling domino transferring its kinetic energy to the next one.

Kinetic Dominoes Observations

Use this worksheet to process and evaluate your work.



What kind of energy do the standing dominoes have?

What happened when you knocked over the first domino?

What forces act on the dominoes to make them fall?

What kind of energy is created as they fall?

What did you learn about potential and kinetic energy?

