



Tumbling Dominoes

Introduction

This activity involves two demonstrations of curious phenomena. In the first part of the activity, a small domino sets in motion a chain of tumbling dominoes which culminates in the fall of a domino over 100 times its height. The second part of the activity involves a chain of equal sized dominoes cascading up a flight of stairs.

Tumbling Dominoes can be used to teach how centre of mass is related to balance, the difference between unstable and stable equilibria, and conservation of energy. Furthermore, once the dominoes are constructed, they can be reused in subsequent years for no additional cost.