

Activity Instructions

The following items will be needed for this activity:

- assembled play-mat (see *Prep Instructions*)
- golf balls
- long stick (or 1m ruler)
- tape

The Chain Reaction

Step 1

Tape the play-mats to the floor to keep them from shifting during the activity.

Step 2

Turn the coffee stirrers so that they are perpendicular to the mousetraps.

Step 3

Set the mousetraps.

Step 4

Place the golf balls on the washers. To avoid disaster if the part of the experiment triggers prematurely, when placing the golf balls and arming the mouse traps, start at the edge of the play-mat and move towards the centre. Also for each pair, start with the golf ball closest to the trigger (**Figure 1**).

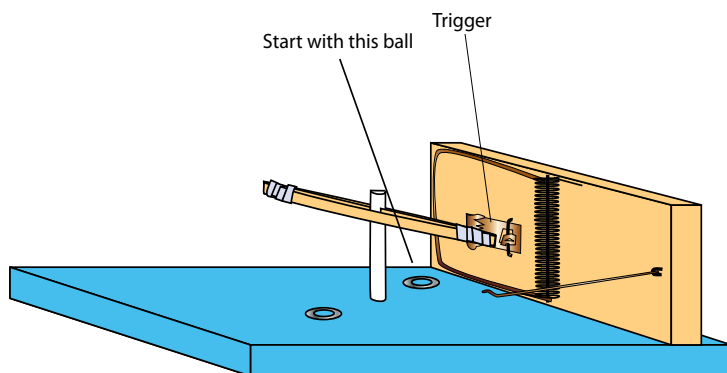


Figure 1

Step 5

Trigger the centre mechanism (shown in red) with a long stick (**Figure 2**).

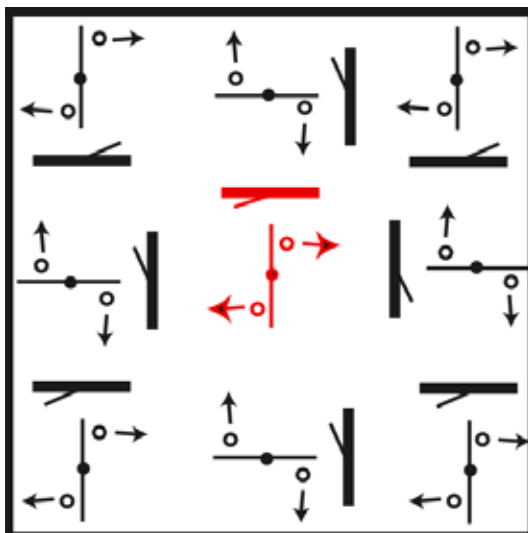


Figure 2

Alternative Set-Up

The chain reaction is so fast that some may prefer to slow it down by separating the play-mats and guiding a ball from one play-mat to another with tubing. **Figure 3** shows an alternative set-up tried in the WOW Lab.



Figure 3