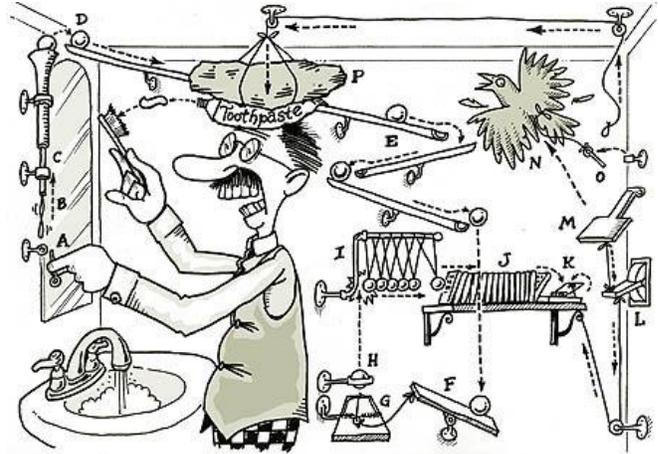




Make a Rube Goldberg Machine

Rube Goldberg was an artist, inventor, engineer, author and sculptor. He is best known for his comical drawings of crazy contraptions and inventions. A Rube Goldberg contraption takes a simple task and makes it extraordinarily complicated.

You and your Little will create your own Rube Goldberg Machine. You can either build a Rube Goldberg Machine or draw a plan for one. Either way, you want to try to create the most complex machine possible to accomplish a simple task. The wackier the better!



Option #1: Build a Rube Goldberg Machine

1. Decide on a goal for your machine. The goal is the last step of your machine. Some examples are: getting a marble in a cup, turning a page in a book, watering a plant, popping a balloon, turning on a fan, putting toothpaste onto a toothbrush, and ringing a bell.
2. Gather some things you can use to make your machine, for example: balls, marbles, dominoes, string, toy cars, magnets, cardboard, paper towel tubes, paperclips, water bottles, playing cards, tape, etc.
3. Now play with the things! What can a car bump into or knock down? Can a string pull something up? What can push a ball down a cardboard ramp? Try it out!
4. Write down or say out loud any idea that pops into your head. Don't worry if your idea seems silly or you're not sure how it will work. Even if you don't use it, it may help you think of more things.
5. Once you get a few good ideas for your machine, you can make a list of the steps, draw a simple picture of the steps, or just start building your machine.
6. Plan on making quite a few changes to your machine as you build it. It may look different from your original drawing. Try not to get frustrated, this is part of learning what works best.
7. If you get stuck at a certain step of your machine, go to the last step and try to work your way backwards.

Option #2: Draw a plan for a Rube Goldberg Machine

1. Instead of actually building a Rube Goldberg Machine, you can draw one. Drawing a machine allows you to use anything you can imagine – not just the supplies you have with you and can reasonably use in an office. You can follow the directions above to help you think of ideas.