



## Academic Activity Chapter 9

# Rube Goldberg Machine

For more than 50 years, Rube Goldberg published cartoons that used simple machines and readily available items to illustrate complex ways of completing simple tasks. Each year the U.S. Department of Energy sponsors a national Rube Goldberg contest, and many engineering colleges sponsor similar local contests.

During this activity you will learn more about the kinds of machines that Rube Goldberg proposed and have an opportunity to design one of your own.

- 1. Conduct research to learn more about Rube Goldberg and his machines. List two sources that you used.**

---

---

---

- 2. Give the title and a description of one of the interesting Rube Goldberg cartoons that you found. What kinds of simple machines did it use?**

---

---

---

- 3. Your challenge is to design a Rube Goldberg machine that you would enjoy building and using. The machine you design should have at least five steps and use at least three different simple machines. List three possible tasks you are considering for your machine. Choose one and briefly explain why you think this is a good choice.**

---

---

---



**Academic Activity  
Chapter 9**

**Rube Goldberg  
Machine**

- 4. In the space provided below, specify the title of your machine and make a sketch of it. Number each step. Below the drawing, use complete sentences to identify the simple machines you have included and describe how your machine works.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---