



Investigating Friction

You have been asked to design a new brake pad for a tricycle or scooter. You will find out which material creates the most friction and stops the wheels the quickest.

Which materials will you test?

Which material do you predict will be the best choice for the new brake pad?

Can you explain why?

Material being tested	Time taken for the wheel to stop (in seconds) First test	Time taken for the wheel to stop (in seconds) Second test

Did your repeat readings match up to your first readings? If not, why do you think this was?

Why is it useful to take repeat readings?



(Remember that the material that stops the wheel in the shortest time has most friction.)

The company would like to see a demonstration of the best material in action. Stick a photo or draw a picture of your demonstration of the best choice for the new brake pad in the box.

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The company would like to see a demonstration of the best material in action. Stick a photo or draw a picture of your demonstration of the best choice for the new brake pad in the box.

Can you explain why this material is the best choice for the new brake pad?

Use these words in your explanation

friction	brake	slow	stop	wheel	speed
rough	smooth	surface	force	push	back



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Can you explain why this material is the best choice for the new brake pad?

If this material is not available, what properties should the company look for in another material?
