

ARGENTINA

Did you know that there are cowboys in Argentina? They are called gauchos in South America. One of their most interesting cowboy tools is a boleadoras (or bola for short), three leather-covered balls linked together with long leather straps. Bolas are thrown at cows to tangle their legs so that they can be captured without hurting them. Can you make a device for throwing from three balls and some string?

Set-Up: Tape two lines on the floor ten feet apart.

Challenge: Design and build a “bola” that you can throw at least ten feet.

Time: Part One: You will have 4 minutes to design and build a technical device similar to a bola (three balls attached to a piece of string).

Part Two: Standing on the outside of one line, you will have 1 minute to try to throw your tool completely across the other line.

Materials: three ping-pong balls
three feet of string
three mailing labels
scissors (may not be included in the solution)

Scoring: up to 60 points for the technical design of the “bola”
15 points if the entire device crosses the ten-foot space
up to 25 points for positive team work

Special Note One: Obviously this could be a dangerous challenge. Remind your team that the point of a bola is **not** to hurt the target. And that other people are not targets!

Special Note Two: If your team is having trouble with the distance, change it. If it is too difficult, make it shorter. If it is too easy, make it longer!