

WILLIAM TELL

William Tell was a proud and independent man. He didn't like being told what to do, especially when that meant bowing down before some bossy person's hat on a pole. William Tell got into a lot of trouble for his defiance. As a punishment, he was forced to use his crossbow to shoot an apple off his own son's head. Of course, William Tell split the apple perfectly, without harming his son at all! That's what the good guys can do, at least in fairy tales. Can you manage a similar, but much less dangerous, feat?

Set-Up: On the floor, tape two parallel lines four feet apart. Place the stuffed animal sitting upright just outside of one line and facing the other line. Balance the paper cup on the animal's head. The launch area is on the far side of the other line.

Challenge: Design and build a technical device that can accurately throw a small ball at a small target.

Time: Part One: You will have 5 minutes to construct some type of launcher to send a small ball across a four foot span and knock a paper cup off the head of a stuffed animal. The team may test their device during this time.

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to demonstrate your device for the appraisers.

Materials: one medium-sized stuffed animal ("the son")
one small paper cup ("the apple")
one small, light ball ("the arrow") (like a table tennis ball)
six craft sticks
three rubber bands
six file cards
two straws
six mailing labels

Scoring: up to 30 points for the technical innovation of the device
10 points if the device works (actually launches a ball)
points for accuracy:
20 points if the ball hits the stuffed animal
30 points if the ball hits the paper cup
40 points if the ball knocks the paper cup off the animal's head
up to 20 points for positive team work