



Scouter's Edition

Ballista

The Crean Award:

Discovery:

Patrol Activity
Skills

Terra Nova:

Patrol Activity
Skills

Endurance:

Develop Teamwork
Patrol Activity

Polar:

Patrol Activity

SPICES

Social
Intellectual

Adventure Skills

Pioneering

The Activity:

Objective:

The patrol will construct a functioning ballista.

Activity Type:

Patrol Activity

Roles:

Activity Leaders
Quartermasters





Plan: Ballista

Plan

For any Lord of the Rings fans, catapults, ballistas and trebuchets are great pioneering projects to undertake as a patrol. The catapult design described in this resource is just one of many that you might use. It requires some basic knowledge of knots (clove-hitch, diagonal lashing, square lashing and figure-of-eight lashing) and the equipment listed.

Equipment Needed:

- 9 x Pioneering poles of various lengths
- Sisal or rope
- Disposable plastic bowl
- A tennis or sponge ball

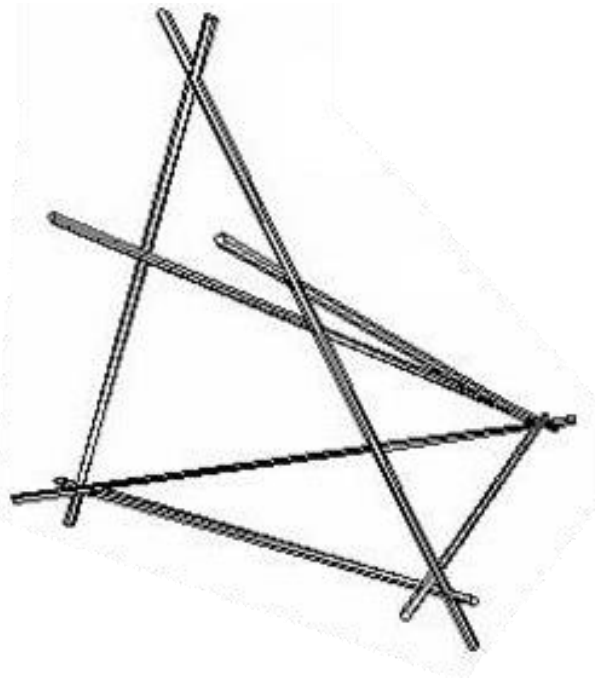




Do: Ballista

Step 1:

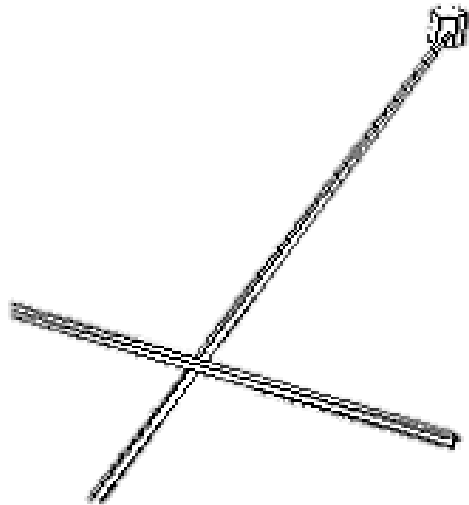
Construct a quadpod. Turn it on its side and brace it on three sides as is shown in the diagram and image.





Do: Ballista

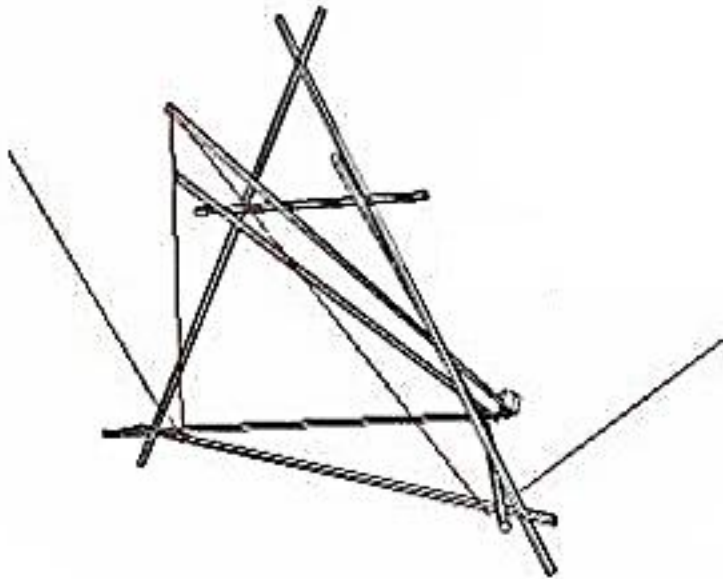
Step 2: Square lash two poles together in a cross formation and attach the plastic bowl to the end of the longer pole by puncturing small holes in the cup to thread through rope which you can then use to attach to the pole.





Do: Ballista

Step 3: Tie two lengths of rope to the end of the cross (opposite the cup) and position the cross as pictured in the diagram and image.





Do: Ballista

Step 4: Place your ammunition (tennis or sponge ball) in the plastic cup and fire the catapult by pulling sharply on the two lengths of rope. You may find that altering the angle at which you pull the ropes changes the distance your ammunition will travel.





Review "SPICES"

Social

- Relationships
- Communication Skills
- Other Cultures
- Community Involvement
- Promise & Law

Physical

- Eat Well
- Personal Hygiene
- Balanced Lifestyle
- How Body works
- Physical Limitations
- Health Choices
- Access Help

Intellectual

- Achieving Goals
- New Ideas/Creativity
- Learn from Decisions
- Team Member

Character

- Promise & Law
- Friends & Friendships
- Plan before do
- Ensuring Fairness
- Respect
- Differences & Views
- Following Dreams
- Live the Scouting Spirit

Emotional

- Aware of feelings
- Asking/Giving Help
- Responsibility for Emotions
- Controlling Emotions
- Going Further
- Beliefs & Values
- Developing Talents

Spiritual

- Promise & Law
- Impact on Environment
- Reflection
- Changing Beliefs





Review

Adventure Skills

How did you progress in your Adventure Skills

Patrol Review

What can we do next?





Scouter Notes

The ballista or catapult can present a good patrol challenge. It requires the scouts to work together and be able to demonstrate some technical proficiency in making the project. However, as it is a ballista it should be enjoyable as well! Some patrols may need help in getting the ballista functioning correctly. Ensure that they stay motivated and are willing to modify what they've done as a means of building a better project.

In reviewing the activity, you should try to get the Scouts to think about it as a team challenge. Success isn't just about being able to launch an object furthest, it's about the patrol working together to design and build it. As it is a relatively short activity, it can be repeated for the patrols to get a chance to improve.

From the **SPICES**, parts of the *Intellectual* area are important. The activity really tests the ability of the individuals and patrol to work towards a common goal, to learn from past experiences and to function as a coherent and effective patrol. Also, the communication skills aspect of the *Social* area is relevant to this activity. The team members need to communicate well together and the activity leader needs to explain what is required well. How did the patrol communicate? Could anything have been done differently?

Both the activity leaders and participating scouts need to think about their role in the team. What was their function? Did they do it well? How can they make improvements? Be careful, however, that patrols do not critique each other, as that can become negative.

