

SLINKY EXPERIMENTS

Did you know that slinkies were accidentally invented during World War II? They did not become popular until after the war so Molly didn't play with them. However, if you have a slinky, try this fun experiment!



Materials:

- Slinky
- Staircases
- Ruler or measuring tape
- Printout of the data sheet
- Pencil

Procedure:

1. Identify all the staircases in your house.
2. For each staircase, measure the length of the step (where you put your foot) and the height of an individual stair and write it down.
3. Once you have measured, test the slinky out on that staircase. Starting at the top of the staircase, place one end of your slinky on the edge of the top stair and drop the other end of the slinky on the next stair below, letting go of the slinky with both hands as you do so.
4. When done, record how many steps your slinky traveled.
5. Continue until you have experimented on each staircase with your slinky.
6. When you have completed the experiment, look at the staircase on which your slinky traveled the most more closely.
 - a. Is the step longer or shorter than the others?
 - b. Is the stair taller or shorter than the others?
7. Once you have looked at the data, decide if the length of the step or the height of the stair influences the slinky's performance.

SLINKY DATA SHEET

Staircase Name	Step Length	Stair Height	Number of Steps Traveled by Slinky