



Catapult



The assignment

An essential feature of medieval warfare was siege weapons. These include the siege tower, covered ladders, and the catapult, perhaps the most fearsome weapon of them all. From a safe distance, beyond the range of the archers in the castle, the catapult could fling rocks high into the air so that they crashed down onto the walls causing them to crumble. The catapults could also be used to throw burning bales of straw to set the wooden and thatched buildings in the castle grounds on fire. There were several different types of catapults. Some used large blocks of stone as a counter weight to cause a long arm to fling rocks onto and over the castle walls. Others used the energy stored in twisted rope for the same effect.

Your task is to design and build a realistic catapult that can throw small rocks as far and accurate as possible.