

Catapult

Try It Out

Take a ball and put it in the bowl at the top of the catapult. Aim towards the field (not the road), pull the arm back, and release! Experiment with pulling the arm back different amounts to try to hit a particular spot on the field.

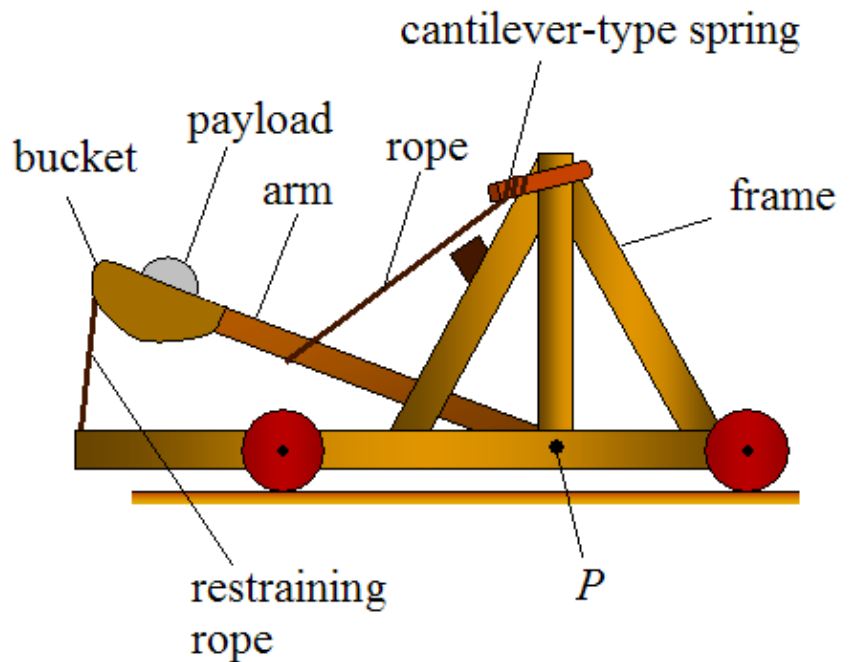
What's going on?

A **catapult** is a device over 2500 years old that's used to launch an object a long distance using the sudden release of stored potential energy. The energy is often built up within the device via springs, bows, or twisted rope.

What's the big deal?

Advances in military technology have been a constant in human history. The catapult is just one example, and a similar mechanism is even used in today's militaries to launch planes from aircraft carriers.

We live in one of the most peaceful periods in world history, and yet military spending and advancement continues. Many technological advances we use in our everyday lives today were first designed for use in the military. Some examples include duct tape and bug spray.



An onager, which is a type of catapult. (Image: Rpanjani)

Wonder While You Walk...

In the late 1940s, the U.S Department of War was renamed the Department of Defense. Why do you think that was? How do you feel about the concept of militaries? What sort of positive and negative emotions do they evoke?