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AESC 4920S

04/14/2013

Georgia Performance Standard: S8P3 - B

Target grade: I did it for my 8th grade class, but you can do it from 3rd grade to 8th grade

Topic: Newton's first law of motion

Materials: Smooth surface, beaker(s), and table cloths. I brought the beakers and table cloth, and used the table that was in the classroom

Safety Concerns: Breaking the beaker(s)

How to facilitate the lesson: Let the students stay a little bit far from you. Put the table cloth on the table close to the edge. Let some of the table cloth hang so you could use the hang part to pull the table cloth. Put the beaker(s) on the table cloth then yank the table cloth downwards.

The table cloth should come out easily leaving the beaker(s) on the table. This verifies Newton's first law of motion that every object remains at rest or in constant motion until an external force acts on it. I only exerted force on the table cloth and not the beaker(s) so the beaker(s) should not move.

What I would modify in the lesson: I will allow every student to try it. I won't be scared to let them do it wrong because they can learn from their mistakes.