Hydraulic Claw

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How It Works

Hydraulics take advantage of the fact that liquids are incompressible. Because of their incompressibility, any pressure that is applied to a liquid will be felt everywhere. Pressure is defined as a force over a given area. Since the pressure is constant, changing the area over which the pressure is applied results in a different force. For example, if 5 N of force were applied to plunger A, which has a surface area of 1 cm², Plunger B, which has an area of 2 cm² could support a weight of 10 N. This is the science behind both squirt guns and dump trucks!



Instructions for the Hydraulic Claw Race

- 1. Set all the objects in one square.
- 2. See how quickly you can move all of the objects into the other square.
- 3. Have fun!

Setup

- 1. Tape two 6"x6" squares side by side next to the hydraulic claw.
- 2. Place objects in one square.
- 3. Make sure no air bubbles are in the hydraulic lines. If there are air bubbles, disconnect the lines and refill them completely with water.

