



## BALANCING CLOWNS

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



### OUTLINE OF ACTIVITY

The kit contains a clown shape to colour in and cut out. The shapes are then weighted with steel washers and balanced on a taut piece of string. The steel washers are used to look as if the clown is juggling - this also gives the club members an idea where to place them. Once the club members have balanced the clown, they can try putting the washers in a different place on additional cut-outs.

### EQUIPMENT

Quantities are based on a **make** and **take** approach to produce 20 balancing clowns.

- clown pop out templates x 20
- string
- metal washers x 60
- blu tac or sellotape
- pencil crayons

### SCIENCE CONTEXT

**Forces**, objects are pulled downwards because of the gravitational attraction between them and the Earth.

### SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

The weight of the metal washers brings the centre of gravity much lower - once below the level of the string the clown will balance.