



CLOVER KIDS

The month of December makes us think of the holidays and makes a lot of children think of toys; therefore, our chosen project for this month was a version of a folk toy that uses science to puzzle and amaze our observers.

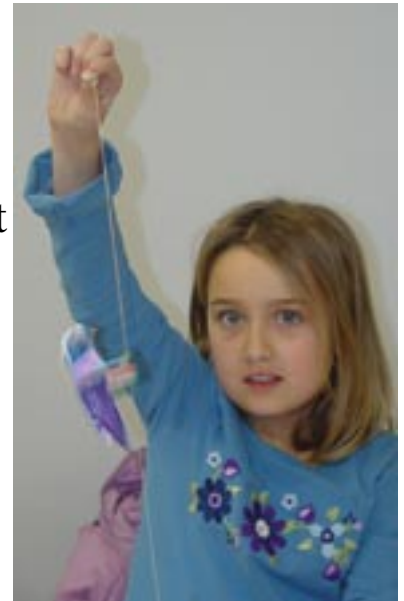


This toy was an oscillating woodpecker. Oscillating, that was our word for the month. This very clever woodpecker showed us potential energy when he was resting at the top of the rubber band and kinetic energy when he moved down the rubber band.



We discovered many interesting facts about woodpeckers. Did you know that woodpeckers tap for at least three reasons? They tap on tree trunks in order to find insects in crevices for food, they tap to hollow out a place for their nest, and tapping is also a way of communication for them. Wood peckers tap an estimated 8,000 to 12,000 times per day. We thought that was an awfully lot of tapping.

Most birds have one toe pointing back and three pointing forward on each foot. Woodpeckers have two toes pointing in each direction. The largest is from Mexico and is about 22 inches, and the smallest from Japan is about six inches. We also thought it was very interesting that some species have a tongue that is four inches long. (<http://www.kidsplanet.org/factsheets/woodpecker.html>)



Our story for the month was a Legend (story of ancient times) from the Northland by Phoebe Cary, The Old Woman Who Became a Woodpecker. We had a good discussion on how the old woman from our story was not very good at using her pillars of character; therefore, she was turned into a woodpecker. Legends are not necessarily true stories so we probably won't turn into a woodpecker if we don't use our pillars of character, but we should still remember to use them every day.



See you next month!
Cheryl Purdum
County Youth Coordinator
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