

# THE NEW YEAR BALL

Happy New Year! One of the coolest events that marks the transition from one year to the next happens in Times Square, New York City. A big crystal ball slides down a pole to arrive at the bottom at exactly midnight. Did your parents let you stay up to watch it? Maybe you could create your own ball drop to celebrate the beginning of the new year at a more convenient time!

**Set-Up:** Point A will be the top of a shoe box taped on end on a table. Point B will be a six inch-square space taped on the table 12 inches from the front edge of the shoe box.

**Challenge:** Design a device that moves a ball from Point A to Point B over exactly ten seconds. Perhaps the team could also sing “Auld Lang Syne” to salute the holiday!

**Time:** Part One: You will have 6 minutes to build an invention to transport a tennis ball from Point A to Point B over a ten-second time interval.

Does anyone know “Auld Lang Syne”?

Part Two: You will have 1 minute to operate your device for the appraisers (and maybe sing, too). Team members will announce to the Time Appraiser when the ten-second period will begin.

**Materials:** for Set-Up: one shoe box  
masking tape  
for Part One: one tennis ball  
ten straws  
two sheets of paper  
five mailing labels  
two paper cups  
six feet of string  
four wooden sticks  
for Part Two: one stop-watch that will measure seconds  
(for use by the appraiser)

**Scoring:** up to 30 points for technical innovation of the device  
50 points if the ball takes exactly 10 seconds to go from Point A to Point B;  
deduct 5 points for each second more or less than 10 seconds  
for the transit  
up to 20 points for positive team work

a round of applause if the team can actually sing “Auld Lang Syne”