Forces



Key Vocabulary Pushes or pulls. forces A pulling force exerted by the Earth gravity (or anything else which has mass). Earth's gravitational The pull that Earth exerts on an object, pulling it towards Earth's pull centre. It is the Earth's gravitational pull which keeps us on the ground. weight The measure of the force of gravity on an object. A measure of how much matter (or mass 'stuff') is inside an object.

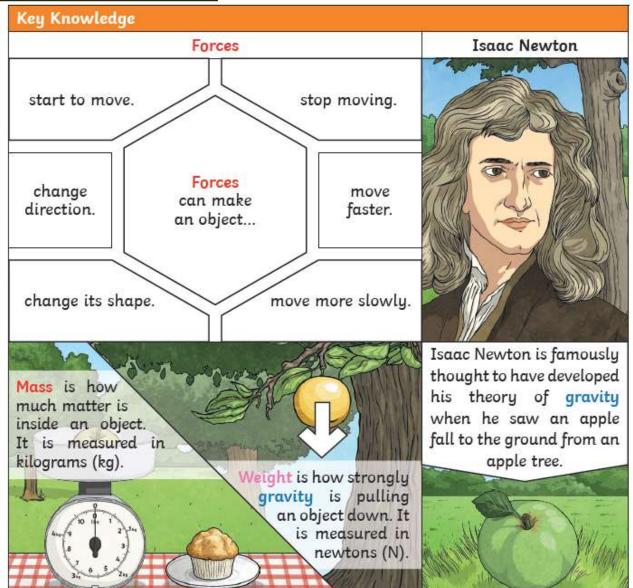
The Moon has a smaller mass than Earth so the gravitational pull on the Moon is smaller than it is on Earth.





Jupiter has
a greater mass than Earth
so the gravitational pull
on Jupiter is stronger
than on Earth.

Science



Forces



Key Vocabulary friction A force that acts between two surfaces or objects that are moving, or truing to move, across each other. air resistance A type of friction caused by air pushing against any moving object. A type of friction caused by water water resistance pushing against any moving object. An object is buoyant if it floats. This buoyancy is because the weight of the object is equal to the upthrust. streamlined When an object is shaped to minimise the effects of air or water resistance. mechanism Parts which work together in a machine. Examples of mechanisms are pulleys, gears and levers. upthrust A force that pushes objects up,

It has a pointed nose to cut through the water, and a smooth, low, curved back to allow the water to flow over and around it.

This shark is streamlined.

usually in water.



so it can move through the water quickly.

Science

Key Knowledge

What careers link to this?

Vehicle designer

Engineer

Examples of forces in action:



Water resistance and air resistance are forms of friction. Friction is sometimes helpful and sometimes unhelpful. For example, air resistance is helpful as it stops the skydiver hitting the ground at high speed. Friction on a bike chain can make the bike harder to pedal so it is unhelpful.



Pulleys can be used to make a small force lift a heavier load. The more wheels in a pulley, the less force is needed to lift a weight.

Gears or cogs can be used to change the speed, force or direction of a motion. When two gears are connected, they always turn in the opposite direction to each other.

make a small force lift a heavier load. A lever always rests on a pivot.