



Chapter 10

Forces

What is a force?

- A force is any outside influence that causes an object to undergo a change in its movement or direction.
 - Forces are described by the strength and direction in which they act.
 - The strength of a force is measured in a unit called a newton (N).
 - A push and a pull act in opposite directions.

Notating Forces

- Forces are often represented visually by an arrow. The longer the arrow is, the stronger the force is.

- 5 N push


2 N pull


1 N pull


Combining Forces

- Multiple forces are often acting on an object at the same time. The combination of all simultaneous forces is called the net force.
 - When forces are acting in the same direction, net force is found by adding the strength of the individual forces.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 6\text{ N} & & \& & 12\text{ N} & = & 18\text{ N} \\ \longrightarrow & & & & \longrightarrow & & \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

When forces are acting in the opposite direction, they combine by subtraction, and the net force acts in the direction of the greater individual force.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 6\text{ N} & & \& & 12\text{ N} & = & 6\text{ N} \\ \longrightarrow & & & & \longleftarrow & & \longleftarrow \end{array}$$

If two equal, opposing forces combine, there is zero net force.

Calculation practice

- Eddie and Caroline are both pushing on a filing cabinet. Eddie is pushing with 10 N of force to the right, while Caroline is pushing with 8 N of force to the left. What is the net force?

$$\begin{array}{c} 10 \text{ N} \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \quad \& \quad \begin{array}{c} 8 \text{ N} \\ \longleftarrow \end{array} \quad = \quad \begin{array}{c} 2 \text{ N} \\ \longrightarrow \end{array}$$

Caroline and Natalie both push in opposite directions with the 8 N of force.

$$\begin{array}{c} 8 \text{ N} \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \quad \& \quad \begin{array}{c} 8 \text{ N} \\ \longleftarrow \end{array} \quad = \quad 0 \text{ N}$$

Independent Practice

- 12 N \rightarrow & 7 N \rightarrow = 19 N \rightarrow
- 9 N \leftarrow & 6 N \leftarrow = 15 N \leftarrow
- 12 N \rightarrow & 8 N \leftarrow = 4 N \rightarrow
- 7 N \rightarrow & 7 N \leftarrow = 0 N

Are there different types of forces?

- Gravity – the force of attraction between two objects.
- Friction – the force that resists the movement of an object.
- Elastic - an object that has the ability to stretch and return to its original shape creates kinetic energy when it returns.
- Inertia – an object in motion tends to remain in motion and an object at rest tends to remain at rest.
- Magnetism – the attraction and repulsion of objects because of charged electrons
- Centripetal – the force that makes an object follow a curved path.