

## **TAPS Plan for Focused Assessment of Science**



Topic: Forces	Year 5 Age 9-10		Aquadynamics
Working Scientifically Review: Explain the degree of trust in the results		Concept Context Identify the effect of water resistance	

### **Assessment Focus**

- Can children identify variables which may affect the results?
- Can children evaluate how effectively variables were controlled?

## **Activity** Today we are marine engineers

Challenge pairs to make a ball of plasticine or blue-tack fall as **slowly** as possible through water (size will depend on how big your container is e.g. a large transparent plastic box or tall measuring cylinder – if using cylinder, put plasticine on string for retrieval). Ask children to explain why they think it will fall more slowly e.g. draw and label design or hold up and explain. Ask children to identify the control variables e.g. depth of water, mass of plasticine, position of drop. Test designs e.g. repeating in groups or as a whole class with a number of the children timing.



Discuss test results and their trustworthiness. Use the test results to predict which shapes will fall fastest. If time, challenge pairs to change the shape so that it falls quickly through the water.

## Adapting the activity



Support: Provide drawings of designs to try e.g. flat, boat-shaped, parachute-shaped. Select middle time if repeating readings.

**Extension**: Average times if repeating readings. Explore different depths or amounts of plasticine, making predictions relating surface area to water resistance.

# **Questions to support discussion**

- How will the shape of the object make a difference to the speed at which it falls?
- Whose design do you think will fall the slowest/fastest? Why?
- What do we need to keep constant so that it is a fair comparison?
- Will it make a difference which way up we drop it?
- How can we make our measurements as accurate as possible?
- How trustworthy are our results? Why?

#### Assessment Indicators

Not yet met: Suggests which shape falls fastest but little recognition of issues with fairness or accuracy.

Meeting: Evaluates how effectively variables were controlled, e.g. We couldn't get the position the same because some shapes turned over at the surface slowly, so we didn't know whether to time from when it went in the water, or when it had turned over.

Possible ways of going further: Is able to repeat readings independently and explains how this increases accuracy, e.g. it was difficult to know when to start timing so we took the middle value/mean average of three readings.



Pupil box 6 - identify next steps. See TAPS pyramid for more examples.