



# brains on!

## CURIOSITY KIT: ANIMAL FARTS

### ACTIVITY OBJECTIVE:

Kids will be able to build their own fart machine in order to get their hands on basic manufacturing concepts.

### MATERIALS/SETUP:

Portable speaker & device to play the episode

Thick gauge wire  
(wire coat hangers work well)

Wire cutters

Pliers

Thick rubber bands (two per machine)

Washers (varying sizes)

### INSTRUCTIONS:

(Consider doing the activities while listening to the podcast.)

- Cut 8–12 inches of wire with wire cutters
- With pliers, bend into a U
- Put both rubber bands next to each other, and thread them both through a washer
- Fasten one rubber band to one side of the U, the other rubber band to the other
- Wind up the band by twisting the washer
- Put it on a seat and sit on it without letting it unwind. When you stand up it will unwind, and the vibrations from the washer unwinding will sound like a fart!

### QUESTIONS ADULTS CAN ASK:

(Don't forget to keep your hands off the project!)

What makes it sound like a fart?

What's happening?

How is this different from a real fart?

How could you make this fart machine better/more fun/more interesting/more gross?

How does the size of the washer change the fart machine? Why?

Which animal's fart do you think your fart machine resembles?

Does it sound different on different surfaces? On different kinds of chairs? What if you put a piece of paper on the chair first?

### ADAPTATIONS ADULTS CAN OFFER:

Offer varying sizes of materials (washers, wire lengths, etc) and have kids experiment with what changes. Play an animal fart sound (see below for links) and have the kids try to replicate the sound.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

#### WEBSITES:

Activity adapted from:

[www.instructables.com/id/fart-machine/](http://www.instructables.com/id/fart-machine/)  
and from:

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuA04CRE6DQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AuA04CRE6DQ)

And just for fun, an iguana fart:

[www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=7&v=n0wvmZSVrNU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=7&v=n0wvmZSVrNU)

#### BOOKS:

*The Gas We Pass: The Story of Farts*  
by Shinta Cho

*Animal Grossology*  
by Sylvia Branzei and Jack Keely

*Does It Fart?: The Definitive Field Guide to Animal Flatulence*  
by Nick Caruso and Dani Rabaiotti