

CHAPTER

8

Mini Lab Worksheet

Spinning Tops

1. Cut out two cardboard disks of 10-cm and 15-cm diameter.
2. Use a pencil with an eraser that has rounded edges from use. If it is new, rub it on paper to round it.
3. Spin the pencil and try to make it stand on the eraser. Repeat several times and record your observations.
4. Carefully push the pencil through the center of the 10-cm disk.
5. Spin the pencil with the disk and try to make it stand on the eraser.
6. Move the disk to different points on the pencil. Spin and record your observations.
7. Repeat steps 4–6 with the 15-cm disk.

Observations		
Pencil	Pencil with 10-cm Disk	Pencil with 15-cm Disk

Analyze and Conclude

8. Sequence the three trials in order from least to most stable.

9. Describe the location of the pencil's center of mass.

10. Analyze the placement of the disk and its effect on stability.
