

Falling in Air



Purpose: To show that, although all objects fall at the same rate of acceleration in vacuum (Penny & Feather demo), different objects fall at different speeds and reach different terminal speeds in air.

Location: room 136, shelf L4

Pennies, feathers, coffee filters and other objects can be dropped together from the same height to show that, in air, objects don't all fall at the same rate. Explain that a force called "air drag" opposes the velocity of an object and depends on its shape, volume and speed. The force of gravity on the object is, by definition, downward and is its weight.