Set It Up; Knock It Down

How to Build a Rube Goldberg Machine

① START AT THE FINISH

What is the task to accomplish? At the end of the chain reaction, what should happen?

② CHOOSE AN APPROACH

- •The methodical approach of plotting and planning each of the steps, interactions, and triggers
- The trial and error approach of setting things up and knocking them down

③ BRAINSTORM

What items will your incorporate? What will be the steps in the chain reaction?

④ SKETCH

A rough drawing of which object will roll into what, triggering which object to fall, etc. is a helpful way to refine your ideas.

⑤ BUILD

start putting your machine together, modifying along the way.

© TEST

Try the whole thing out! Then identify problems and possible solutions.





⑦ LEARN

Set it up. Knock it down. Learn from it. Failure is the key to eventual success.

® EMBRACE MURPHY'S LAW

If anything can go wrong, it will. Count on it. Be prepared to troubleshoot. And then don't worry about it.



Art by Shanda McCloskey, from Catherine Thimmesh's Smash, Crash, Topple, Roll!

"You have to have courage to be a creator." –Rube Goldberg

