

# CALIFORNIA STATE SCIENCE FAIR 2009 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)

Samuel C. Nobles

**Project Number** 

J0123

# **Project Title**

# Does the Size of the Waterwheel Paddle Affect Speed and Performance?

# **Abstract**

# **Objectives/Goals**

The purpose of this experiment is to find out if adding more paddles or changing the width of the paddle fold will affect the speed and performance.

#### Methods/Materials

- 1. Create a template using a pie chart in Microsoft Excel.
- 2. Use the waterwheel template to create a nine-inch waterwheel out of a pie tin.
- 3. Make three waterwheels with five equal paddles. One wheel should have paddles with two-inch folds, another with three-inch folds, and a third with four-inch folds.
- 4. Repeat step four creating a waterwheel with six, seven, eight, and nine equal paddles.
- 5. Place a bucket with a hole drilled on each side in a sink with a faucet.
- 6. Place a wooden dowel through the holes of the bucket.
- 7. Use 50 cm of string and tie one end to the middle of the dowel.
- 8. Tie the other end to a fishing weight.
- 9. After placing a waterwheel on the dowel, run water on the wheel and time how long it takes the fishing weight to reach the top of the dowel.
- 10. Repeat step nine two more times making sure to record times in the logbook.
- 11. Repeat experiment steps nine and ten for each waterwheel design recording times in the logbook.

### **Results**

The paddles with the four-inch folds proved to be most consistent because the water remained on the paddle due to the larger fold size.

#### **Conclusions/Discussion**

The waterwheel with the four-inch folds worked the best and was more consistent because the water hit a larger area across the paddle of the wheel

### **Summary Statement**

This experiment is to find out if adding more paddles or changing the width of the paddle fold will affect the speed and performance.

## **Help Received**