

Week 8 Zero-g

How Do We Put Something into Orbit?



When you throw a ball, does it follow a straight path or a curve as it falls to the ground?



But the Earth is round!

What would happen if you threw your ball so that its curved path matched the curvature of the Earth? Sketch in the path.

Newton imagined a cannon up at the top of a very very tall mountain (much taller than any actual mountain). He realized that it's just a matter of picking the right speed.

Go to mrmont.com and open up the Newton's Cannon Simulation.

Try different speeds until you get the cannonball into orbit.

What speed worked for you?

Was it a perfect circle?

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