

Hammering nails

This task is about forces and energy.



While putting together a tree hut a group of children used a hammer to nail boards to a wooden frame. One board was of a very dense wood and the nails would not go through it. Jeremy went to his house and got a larger, heavier hammer and used that. This time the nails went through the board after a few hits.

a) Using the word 'force', explain why the heavier, larger hammer could drive the nails into the dense wood whereas the smaller, lighter hammer had not been able to.

b) What does the word 'dense' mean as used to describe the wood?