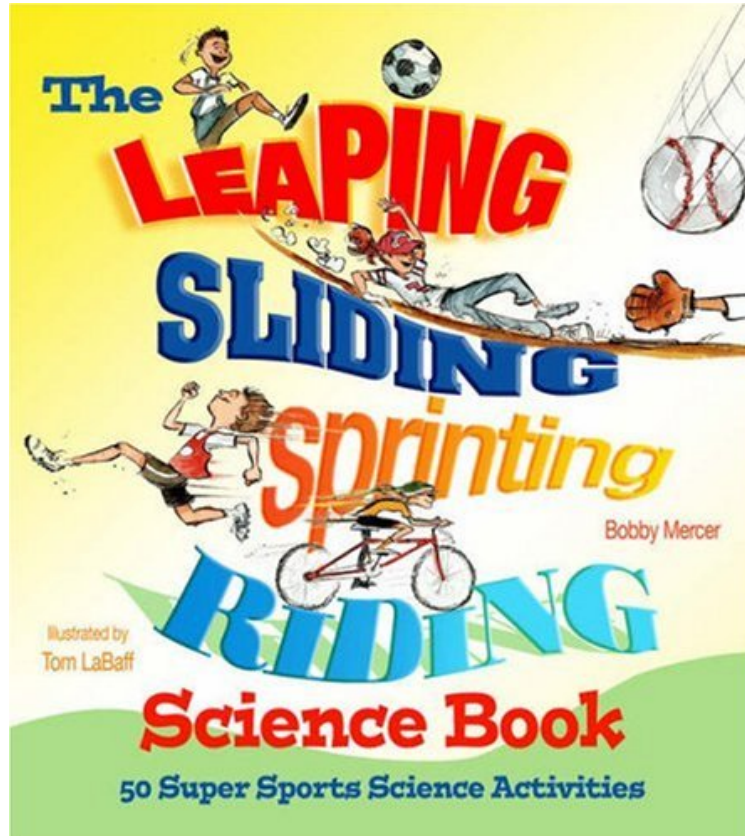


(Read free) The Leaping, Sliding, Sprinting, Riding Science Book: 50 Super Sports Science Activities

# The Leaping, Sliding, Sprinting, Riding Science Book: 50 Super Sports Science Activities

*Bobby Mercer*

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## **Bobby Mercer : The Leaping, Sliding, Sprinting, Riding Science Book: 50 Super Sports Science Activities**

before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Leaping, Sliding, Sprinting, Riding Science Book: 50 Super Sports Science Activities:

From the swoosh of a thrown football to the force of a tennis ball smashing against the racquet, all sports involve motion and action - and that means all sports involve science. This fully illustrated entry into Lark's much-praised science series encourages kids to look keenly at the wide world of sports to uncover its underlying scientific principles. And the activities feel just like fun and games! Kids will barely realise they're learning hardcore science as they challenge friends to a reverse bike race, see how to throw basketball passes that no one can steal, and discover what's behind the infamous spitball and knuckleball.

From School Library Journal Grade 5-8—Mercer uses sports moves and activities to teach physics and other science concepts. He explains numerous complex terms, including density, biomechanics, the Magnus effect, friction, and laminar flow. Many of the activities require kids to be outside with bikes, Frisbees, hockey sticks, baseball bats, etc. Others require objects such as a bungee cord, a stopwatch, a protractor, or cans of soup. Some experiments are easily done at home. The range is from simple (freezing sneakers to compare traction) to complex (teaching oneself to do an ollie on a skateboard). Each activity has a list of equipment and instructions for performing it, followed by a section that explains the science behind it. The lively and colorful illustrations make the book seem as if it is for elementary school kids, but the activities and science concepts discussed are more appropriate for middle schoolers. Motivated readers will find a lot of fun projects to experiment with, but this book will probably get the most use from science educators, who will find a wealth of inspiration and ideas.—Marcia Kochel, Olson Middle School, Bloomington, MN

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From Booklist Mercer puts his experience as a physics teacher and a sports coach to good use in this compendium of science activities. Readers can determine the best angle for throwing or hitting a ball far and test how more air pressure in a basketball, volleyball, or soccer ball affects its bounce. Each activity is presented on a single-page or a double-page spread, including a list of materials, step-by-step instructions, a discussion of the science behind it all, and an appealing ink-and-watercolor illustration. A lengthy glossary is appended. Aimed at a younger audience than Robert Gardner's *Science Projects about the Physics of Sports* (2000), this will appeal to active kids looking for science fair ideas, and what they learn may also be helpful on the playing fields. Carolyn Phelan

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