

Paper Clip Canister Lab

The purpose of this lab activity is to gather data in order to make a graph and interpret what information can be *extrapolated* from the curve.

EXTRAPOLATED means to extend the application of (a method or conclusion, especially one based on statistics) to an unknown situation by assuming that existing trends will continue or similar methods will be applicable.

Data Table

Canister ID#	Mass in grams
2	6,30
3	6,69
4	7,00
6	7,76
8	8,60
9	8,95
12	10,30
13	10,70
15	11,57
17	12,70

Goals: Students should be able to see an increasing linear trend by adding more paper clips. Students will estimate the y-intercept before using Excel to mark the trendline and display the equation of the line.

Key Concepts: The y-intercept is the point at which the mass of the canister is obtained without paper clips inside. The slope of the line (y/x) is equivalent to the average mass of one paper clip.

The Effect of Adding Paper Clips on Total Mass







