**Vocabulary:** **Potential Energy on Shelves**



**Vocabulary**

* Gravitational potential energy – *potential energy* that depends on an object’s position within a gravitational field such as that exerted by Earth.
	+ Gravitational potential energy is represented by several symbols: *GPE*, *PE*, or *U*.
	+ On Earth, an object’s gravitational potential energy depends on the object’s *weight* and height above Earth’s surface.
	+ The formula for gravitational potential energy is *GPE* = *wh* or *GPE* = *mgh.*
* Kinetic energy – the energy of motion.
	+ Kinetic energy is represented by the symbol *KE* or simply *K*.
	+ The formula for kinetic energy is *KE* = *mv*2 ÷ 2.
* Potential energy – the energy an object has because of its position or shape.
	+ Potential energy that is dependent on an object’s position above earth is known as gravitational potential energy.
	+ Potential energy that is dependent on an object’s shape (such as a stretched rubber band) is known as *elastic potential energy*.
* Weight – a measure of the gravitational force exerted on a mass.
	+ Weight is represented by the symbol *w*.
	+ The formula for weight is *w* = *mg*.
* Work – the product of a force being applied on an object over a distance.
	+ The formula for work is *W* = *Fd*.