

Vocabulary: Evaluating Theories of Free Fall

- Air resistance – the force of air pushing against a moving object.
 - Air resistance is also called *drag*.
 - Air resistance increases as speed increases.
 - Air resistance also increases as surface area (size) increases.
- Controlled experiment – an experiment in which only one *variable* is changed at a time.
 - Generally, in a controlled experiment, all conditions are kept the same except for the variable being tested.
- Free fall – falling motion caused by the force of gravity.
- Manipulated variable – the one variable that is changed in a controlled experiment.
 - The manipulated variable is the variable that is being tested in a controlled experiment.
- Vacuum – a region that contains no matter.
 - Outer space is very nearly a vacuum.
 - The Moon has no atmosphere, so the area above the Moon's surface is also nearly a vacuum.
- Variable – a factor that can be changed in an experiment.