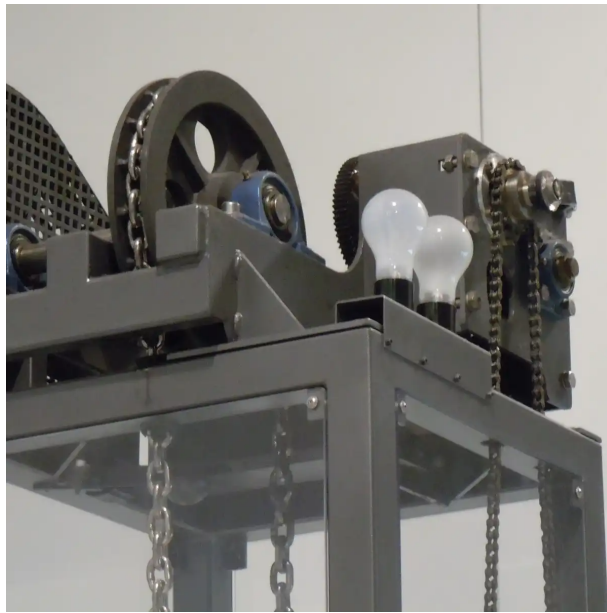


Potential energy

Can you make the lamps light up?



Turn the handle.

Does the lamp light up?

What happens when you turn the handle more quickly?

Let go of the handle, and see what happens to the lamp.

When you turn the handle, the lamp starts to glow and the rock moves upwards. When you stop turning, the rock starts moving downwards, and the lamp keeps glowing for a while.

When you turn the handle, you transform kinetic to electrical energy, which causes the lamp to glow. If you produce more energy than the lamp needs, the excess is used to raise the rock. The energy is stored as potential energy in the rock. When you let the handle go, the rock moves down, and releases its energy. This energy supplies the lamp, which keeps glowing brightly even though you aren't turning the handle any more.