

Spaghetti Towers

by Daniel Lee

Recommended for 4th grade and up

Summary:

We show kids a presentation on what civil engineers do and the technology they use. We will then teach them to create structures using spaghetti and other simple supplies. We can then have them compete to create the tallest building of spaghetti.

Supplies (Per Group, 2-4 people):

- Dry Spaghetti - 20 sticks per group
- Masking Tape- 1 meter per group
- Yarn - 1 meter per group
- Large marshmallows - 1 per group
- Scissors - 1 per group
- Meter Stick

Procedure:

1. Make groups of 2-4 among the kids. We can let them choose or choose for them.
2. Hand out the supplies to each group.
3. Give each group 20-30 minutes to build the tallest building they can with the given materials. Give guidance and extra time where necessary.
4. Stop everyone from building and measure the height of the marshmallow. Winning group can get a prize like the rest of the marshmallows.

Purpose:

The goal is to spark an interest in engineering among the kids through this fun activity. They will learn how to work in a group and with limited supplies, which are essential skills in an engineering activity.