

Lesson Title:	<b>Pipe Cleaner Towers Activity</b>
Subject Area:	STEM
Grade Level:	6-8
Duration:	1 hour
Format (#students/group):	4
Overview:	Students are to build the tallest structures they can using only pipe cleaners and scissors.
Educational Standards:	Concept of limited resources and constraints Teamwork Project Planning
Unit Question:	What are some of the skills builders need within the workplace?
Focus Question/ Purpose:	How must builders use teamwork skills when working on a project? What must builders take into consideration before beginning a project?
Desired Outcomes:	Students will learn the value of teamwork in order to build a quality product. Students will work on planning before building. Students will learn to work with limited resources to accomplish a goal.
Activity Details/ Instructions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Divide students into groups of 4.</li> <li>2. Brainstorm what kinds of skills are necessary in a building situation.</li> <li>3. Provide each group with scissors.</li> <li>4. Provide each group with one package of pipe cleaners.</li> <li>5. Explain to students that they are going to be given 20 minutes to build the tallest, free-standing structure possible.</li> <li>6. Allow students time to formulate a plan.</li> <li>7. Allow time for students to build.</li> <li>8. Discuss strengths/weaknesses.</li> <li>9. Discuss what could have been done better and problems that groups experienced.</li> </ol>
Safety:	Pipe cleaners and scissors may be sharp.
Potential Cost:	Less than a dollar/student.
Supplies (source):	Any craft supplier, dollar stores, etc.
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Key Words:	STEM, building, teamwork, project planning, brainstorming, problem solving
Other Resources:	