



BALLOON TOWER

Type of activity: Energiser
Participants: 6-50
Timing: 15-30 Minutes
Key themes: Teamwork Creative thinking

Overview

Small teams are asked to build the tallest, most cost-effective, free-standing tower using just balloons and some sticky tape within a set time.

Pre-Work

None Required.

Equipment and Layout

One packet of multi coloured balloons and a roll of sellotape per team. 1 Tape measure. Sufficient table space is needed for each team to work on their tower.

Running the Activity

1. Split the group into small teams (of 2 - 4)
2. Introduce the exercise by stating that the challenge is to build the tallest, most cost effective freestanding tower
3. Explain the 10 minute time constraint
4. Explain the costs involved for the materials (see sheet 2)
5. Assign each group their balloons. Also provide each team a briefing sheet (see sheet 2)
6. Reinforce the rules that the tower must be unsupported and freestanding after 10 minutes
7. Start the activity and the timer. Give the teams a time check after five minutes and a one and two minute warning.
8. After 10 minutes, call time or give an extension at your discretion.

9. Ask the teams to work out and calculate their points (as below). The team with the highest number of points is the winning team. **Do not show the team the scoring procedure before the activity takes place.**

Scoring:
Points will be awarded as follows:

Height of Tower	Cost Efficiency
Tallest tower – 15 points	Cheapest tower – 15 points
2 nd tallest – 13 points	2 nd most expensive – 13 points
3 rd tallest – 10 points	3 rd most expensive – 10 points
4 th tallest – 8 points	4 th most expensive – 8 points
5 th tallest – 6 points	5 th most expensive – 6 points
6 th tallest – 4 points	6 th most expensive – 4 points
7 th tallest – 2 points	7 th most expensive – 2 points
8 th tallest – 1 point	8 th most expensive – 1 point

10. Give a prize if necessary.

Additional notes

None

Review and Conclusions

- Ask the teams if they had a strategy
- Explore the various approaches
- Ask whether their design changed during construction and why
- Ask what each team (starting with the least successful) would do differently if they were to repeat the exercise

Be sure to identify that cost efficiency and not height alone determined the winning tower

Follow-up

Lego Arch is a more complex construction task with a number of parallels to business

For further suggestions on follow-up and other team activities, go to www.freshtracks.co.uk or email mail@freshtracks.co.uk

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Participants' Briefing Notes

The specifications of the Balloon Tower are as follows:

- It must be built entirely of balloons.
- It must be self-standing and rest on the table or floor.

Aim:

- To build the tallest, most cost-effective, free-standing tower within the time limit available with the resources provided:

Your costs will be as follows:

- Ballons: £2.00 each
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The project is to be completed in 10 minutes:

Team

Expenses

Balloons @ £2.00 each..... £

Total Expenses £