



SPAGHETTI 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 a packet of dried spaghetti and a packet of jelly babies within the set time limit.

Equipment and Layout

100g of spaghetti, 1 balloon and 20 jelly babies 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 that will support an inflated balloon
3. Explain the 10 minute time constraint
4. Explain the costs involved for the materials (see sheet 2)
5. Assign each group their spaghetti, jelly beans and balloon. 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 with an inflated balloon attached to the top
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.

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 Spaghetti Tower are as follows:

- It must be built entirely of Spaghetti & Jelly Babies.
- It must be self-standing and rest on the table.
- An inflated balloon must be attached to the top of the tower by the end of the time period.

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:

- Jelly Babies: £2.00 each
- Spaghetti Strands £1.00 each
- Balloon £ Free

The project is to be completed in 10 minutes:

Team

Expenses

Jelly Babies @ £2.00 each.....	£
Spaghetti Strands @ £1.00 each.....	£
Balloon @ £ Free.....	£ Free
Total Expenses	£

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