

Bridge Building Challenge!

Goal:

The goal is for students to work together in teams in an engineering challenge. It is important that everyone in the group is contributing something. Some groups might need a tutor to stay with them for a bit to help get started.

Setting up:

- Students get a few lollies to test with when building (2-3 individually wrapped lollies) or about 5 M&Ms
- On the projector/screen you should have a timer running.
<https://www.online-stopwatch.com/> is a popular choice (and usually the first search result) and has a fullscreen mode.
Announce that the 5 planning minutes are over then start the 25 minute timer for building.
- Each group of students will get a printed handout with the instructions so they can reference them.
- There should also be 1 or 2 tutor teams also competing in the bridge building to see if the students can beat them. Make sure a few tutors are allocated to this.

Tips & General Notes:

- If teams are really stuck, you can give them hints to get started.
- Cutting paper with another implement such as scissors is not allowed but they can tear it with their hands.
- When doing final testing:
 - Do the straw test FIRST. If it doesn't pass, they can try again in the time limit. This avoids the situation which has happened where a team "won" by the weight test but really they shouldn't have and then they feel sad.
 - make sure you place the lollies gently if using lollies other than M&Ms. Dropping things like Freddos onto the bridge may break them.