

PLACING PENNIES

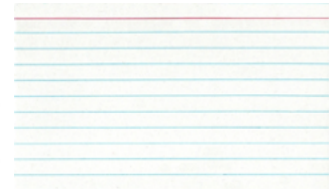
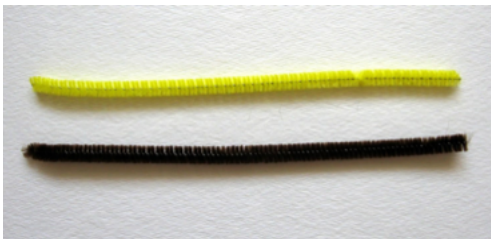
Core Values Activity

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Materials:

3 packing peanuts
3 toothpicks
1 pipe cleaner
1 index card
Jar of pennies (for use as weights only, not for building the structure)



Instructions to the team:

Using only the materials provided, build a tall, free-standing structure that will hold as many pennies as possible. You will have 4 minutes to build the structure, and 1 minute to place pennies on the structure. Once the 4 minutes are up, place the pennies on the structure one at a time until it collapses or time expires. You may not touch the structure once you begin placing the pennies.

Variations:

After the structure collapses, give the team 4 additional minutes to create a new or improved structure and see if it can hold more pennies.

Discussion:

Does the team find the instructions ambiguous or confusing? What does it mean to build a "tall" structure? How tall can any structure built from such limited materials be? Encourage your team to ask for clarification when they need it - but to be prepared to hear nothing more than a repetition of the original instructions, so they will be required to make their own judgments.