

THE STRONGEST BRIDGE

Core Values Activity

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Materials:

- 1 3-foot piece of string
- 15 paper clips
- 6 straws
- 2 index cards
- 5 marshmallows
- 1 12-inch piece of masking tape
- 2 bricks (for bridge towers)
- Scissors (for use in construction only)
- Dried beans (for weights only)

Prep:

Set up 2 bricks on a table. Lay out all other construction materials so they are clearly visible.

Instructions to the team:

You have 7 minutes to build a bridge between two bricks. Your bridge must hold as many beans as possible. You may use the scissors to modify the construction materials, but the scissors cannot be part of the bridge. At the end of the building period, you will place the beans, one at a time, on to the bridge, counting how many beans the bridge can hold before it collapses or the beans spill.

Discussion:

Did the team decide to use a planning period, or did they immediately start construction? How was this bridge different than the "longest bridge" built last week? Did last week's experience make this week's task easier or harder?

Variations:

Combine this "strongest bridge" activity with last week's "longest bridge" activity. Choose one set of construction materials, and have the team build one bridge, then the other. What was different about the two construction projects? What was the same?