

# THE LAST STRAW

## Core Values Activity

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### Materials:

30 straws

Masking tape (for marking purposes only; the tape may not be used to construct the tower)

Scissors (for construction only; the scissors may not be part of the tower)

### Setup:

Use masking tape to mark a 12" x 12" square on the floor.

Instructions to the team:

Your task is to build a tower that is as tall as possible made only of straws. You will have two minutes to discuss your strategy. During this time, you may not touch any of the straws. You will then have five minutes to build your tower within the taped square.

### Variations:

Provide as many pairs of scissors as you have team members. Does this change their strategy? Does it help them work together or encourage team members to go off on their own?

### Discussion:

By now, your team has read the Trash Trek challenge content about the 9-year-old who started wondering about disposable straws offered by restaurants. What will happen to the straws used in this challenge? Ideally, what would happen to them? Can your team do anything to get closer to the ideal solution?