

Toothpick Tower Challenge

Franklin County 4-H Camp in a Box Activity Guide

Activity Objectives:

Participants will –

- Experiment with engineering design to create a tower with limited materials.

Time: 20 minutes

Supplies:

- Toothpicks
- Marshmallows
- Optional: Timer

Additional Resources:

- [PBS Tower Video](#)
- [Alternative Activities](#)

Pretend you are an engineer and experiment with toothpicks and marshmallows to design and build a tower. How tall do you think you can make it? What will it look like?

WHAT TO DO

1. Begin by setting out the toothpicks and marshmallows so they are accessible on a flat work surface.
2. Try to build the tallest, free-standing tower possible with only the marshmallows and toothpicks. No other materials may be used.
3. The tower must be able to stand on its own without helping hands or other objects (it must be free-standing). This means no holding the tower or leaning it against another object. It must stand on its own.
4. To make this activity a challenge, set a timer and try to build to a certain height by a set amount of time.

