



Tallest Tower

Supplies:

- ✿ Old newspapers
- ✿ Straws (20-30 per team)
- ✿ 3-4 ft (1m) masking tape per team
- ✿ Scissors
- ✿ Measuring tape or yard stick
- ✿ Bluetack (poster putty) **Optional**

How To:

- ✿ Divide the girls up into groups of four or five.
- ✿ Give each team their building materials.
- ✿ Challenge them to build the tallest tower they can, using only the materials they have been given.
- ✿ Towers must be freestanding.
- ✿ Measure the towers to see which is tallest.

Suggestions:

- ✿ Hold two or three separate challenges – one with newspaper and tape only, one with straws and bluetack only, and one with all materials.
- ✿ Limit the amount of time for building – 5-10 minutes for straws, 10-15 for paper.
- ✿ Compare strengths and weaknesses of various designs – what worked, and what didn't?
- ✿ After discussing the designs, give teams 10 minutes to modify their towers. Can they make them taller?
- ✿ Make strong newspaper tubes by placing a straw diagonally in one corner of a sheet of paper, and rolling the paper tightly around it. Tape the tube to hold it, and trim the floppy ends.