

The Marshmallow Challenge

In groups of four to five students, you will work as a team to build the tallest structure possible in 20 minutes, using the following items:

- 20 sticks of spaghetti
- 1 yard of masking tape
- 1 yard of string
- 1 marshmallow

Assign one of the following duties to each team member:

- Construction Worker - gathers the necessary items; after activity, disassemble the structure and place the items back in their proper places in the classroom
- Foreman - provides main instructions and guidance on how best to create the structure
- General Manager - sketches the structure on paper, labeling its parts as necessary
- Leader - after activity, provides a brief oral presentation to the class describing the process used by the team for building the structure
- Master Builder - builds the structure with guidance from the team

After each group has presented its structure, regroup with your team members and answer the following questions:

1. How did you feel when you were first placed in this group? (Take turns answering this question.)

2. Rate the communication skills of your team. Justify your selection with concrete examples.

1 = needs improvement

2 = okay

3 = average

4 = better than average

5 = above average

Justification for rating:

3. What was the most effective quality exhibited by your team?

4. How can a team succeed, even if members disagree or have different ideas?

5. If you had the opportunity to do this activity again, what would you do differently?

Activity adapted from: Ted Talk, *The Marshmallow Challenge*, Tom Wujec <http://marshmallowchallenge.com/Welcome.html>