

Building a Good Foundation – Activity

Your challenge today is to build a tower using gumdrops and toothpicks. Your design needs to be a strong foundation that will hold a book on top of it for 10 seconds.

Rules for Building

1. You can only use the supplies provided to build a tower.
2. The tower can be any shape you choose, but it has to be at least as tall as a small paper cup.
3. When you are finished building your tower, place a book on top of it. The tower must support the weight of the book for 10 seconds.

Materials Needed:

Gumdrops

Toothpicks

Small paper cup

Book



Directions:

- You can work individually or in groups. Each person or group needs about 30 gumdrops and 30 toothpicks.
- Think about the challenge and plan your method of building before you start.
- Begin building your tower. Expect to fail several times before you get your tower strong enough to hold the book.
- When you think you can meet the challenge, tell your leader you're ready to test it.
- Test your tower. Is it taller than the cup? Does it hold a book for 10 seconds?
- Congratulate the groups who meet the challenge.