

Lolly Stick Bridges

Looking ahead to summer by using lolly sticks in a test of design and engineering skills!

We'd love to hear how you get on with (and develop) Lolly Stick Bridges - so please let us know!

Ideas

EXPLORE



Activity Overview

Rather than using spaghetti and marshmallows to create structures destined to be tested to destruction, Lolly Stick Bridges is an open-ended activity setting a real engineering challenge!

Target Audience

KS1 - KS4

Resources

- Lolly sticks (we use tongue depressors, sourced from MediSupplies) - 6 per pupil
- Blu-Tack (or an equivalent) - 1 pack per students
- Toy cars - identical for each team

Instructions

Explain that pupils will be working in teams to construct downward-sloping bridges from lolly sticks and Blu-Tack. Clearly outline the success criteria. It might be that the bridge is to have the longest span possible or that it's to have a specified span - but it must be capable of taking the weight of the car as it travels freely along the entire span.

Decide on teams - and give each team its resources. Announce how much time they have (we suggest 30 minutes). At the end of the allotted time, test the cars - and discuss the outcomes.

Extension Activity

Deconstruct the bridges - and challenge pupils to construct new ones to specified designs (pontoon, for example - or suspension).

Outcomes

Development of problem-solving and engineering skills, teamwork - and resilience.

"as creatives are like a breath of fresh air - livening up teachers and students with fun and innovative methods of learning."
Head of Science, Holy Cross School

Get in touch and let us know about your experiences of using Lolly Stick Bridges with your pupils at: info@as-creatives.com or tweet us [@ascreatives](https://twitter.com/ascreatives)

Ideas

