MARSHMALLOW CHALLENGE

SUPPLIES
20 strands uncooked spaghetti ♦ 1 yard tape
1 yard string ♦ 1 marshmallow ♦ timer

Try the Marshmallow Challenge, a fun and quick design challenge that thousands of people have attempted.

1 Design Goal: In 18 minutes, build the tallest freestanding structure that can support a marshmallow. Check out the official rules on the website before you get started to answer your questions.

2 Brainstorm: Alone or in a group, think of ideas for creating your structure. Because of the time limit, keep your brainstorming to a couple minutes.

3 Select Alternatives: Decide on which design to do, plus a few other designs to try. Make sure your ideas meet the goals. Will it hold the marshmallow? Is it tall?

4 Design and Prototype: Draw a quick sketch, then start to build. Try several different designs.

5 Test and Reflect: When the time is up, measure the height of your tower. What worked? What didn’t work? What could be improved?

Kids usually have the tallest structures because they start building prototypes quickly and learn what does and doesn’t work. Adults spend too long planning on paper!

structure: something that is built, such as a building, bridge, tunnel, tower, or dam.