

SPAGETTI TOWERS

BRIEF FOR FACILITATORS

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Key Themes | Teamwork, Planning a Strategy, Time Management, Creative Thinking, |
| Participants | 6 – 50 split into teams of 3 to 4 |
| Timings | Suggest 30 minutes for activity + debrief time |
| Materials Required per team | 100g uncooked spaghetti One packet of jelly babies 1 balloon Tape measure for the facilitator |

Overview

Teams are asked to build the tallest, most cost-effective, free-standing (unsupported) tower using a packet of dried spaghetti and jelly babies that will support an inflated balloon.

Running the activity

1. Split the group into small teams of 3-4 and introduce the challenge by stating the aim is to build the most cost effective, freestanding tower that will support an inflated balloon.
2. Give a time limit to achieve this task – suggestion is 20 minutes
3. Explain the costs involved for the material (see team brief) and allocate out the resources and start timer.
4. Give a warning when the time is nearly up eg 2 minute warning.
5. Measure the towers and ask teams to work out their expenses and award points out as follows (do not share these before the end):-

| Height of Tower | Cost Efficiency |
|---|---|
| Tallest Tower = 15 points | Cheapest tower = 15 points |
| 2 nd tallest tower = 13 points | 2 nd least expensive = 13 points |
| 3 rd tallest tower = 10 points | 3 rd least expensive = 10 points |
| 4 th tallest tower = 8 points | 4 th least expensive = 8 points |

Suggested Review Questions/Messages

- What worked well / what would you do differently?
- What was your starting strategy?
- Did you modify your design during construction?
- What would you have done differently if you had known the objective wasn't height alone?
- What is the impact in the workplace if we don't have clear objectives?
- Key message – cost efficiency and not height alone determined the winning tower.

SPAGETTI TOWERS TEAM BRIEF

Your Task

- Your task is to build the tallest, most cost-effective, free-standing (unsupported) tower
- The tower must be constructed using a packet of dried spaghetti and jelly babies that will support an inflated balloon within the time limit given.
- No other materials may be used in the construction.
- The height of the tower will be measured from its base to the bottom of the balloon.
- You need to keep a log of the resources used and their costs. These will be as follows:-

Jelly Babies £2.00 each

Spaghetti Strands £1.00 each

Balloon Free

| Number Used | Item | Item Cost | Total Cost |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------------|
| | Jelly Babies | @ £2.00 | |
| | Spaghetti Strands | @ £1.00 | |
| Total Cost for the Tower | | | |