

PASTA BRIDGE

Description:

Using only the materials given, build a bridge to span a specified distance and support a cup (in the middle of the bridge) with as many small weights as possible.

Number of Participants: 2

Approximate Time: 50 minutes

Materials/Team:

Bridge supports (two tables or two 3" pieces of scrap 2" x 4" that are spaced about 4"-5" apart)

Weights (washers, marbles, pennies, anything that you have in large quantities)

Small paper cup to hold weights

Spaghetti

Modeling clay

Other Possible Problems to Solve:

- Design a new bridge to hold even more washers.
- Use less spaghetti.
- Use less clay.
- Try different pastas.
- Move the supports even further apart.

The Competition:

1. Students must build a bridge to span the distance between the two blocks or tables.
2. The clay may be used to stabilize the bridge at the supports, hold the cup in place or to join shorter pieces of pasta.
3. Students place the cup at the center of the span and begin to add weights.

Scoring:

The bridge that holds the greatest number of weights wins!

