

Kit contains: popsicle sticks, clothespins and 3/4" binder clips. (Please return within a week for others to try)

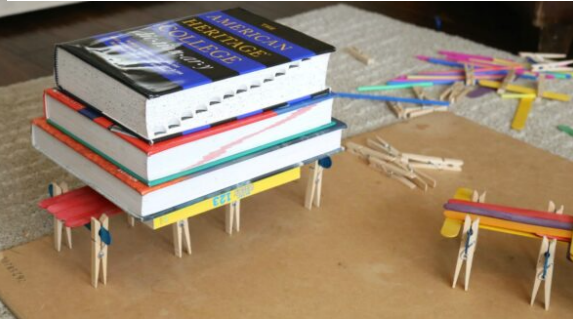


Challenge #1: Build a structure that can support the most possible weight.

For this one, you could either challenge kids to build a true bridge, or just a structure that supports weight.

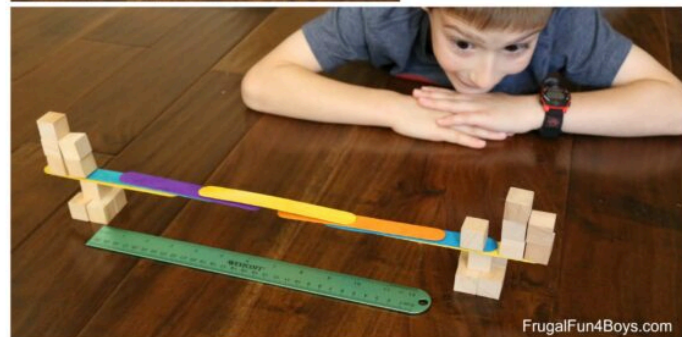
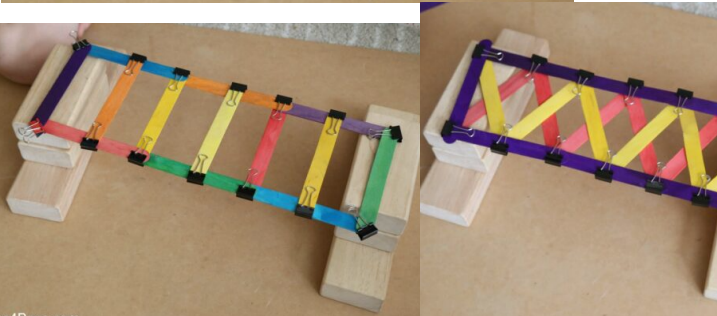
Two clothespins with a craft stick between them make great supports for a structure.

We couldn't believe how much weight this could hold! We didn't keep going to find the capacity on this one, but Gresham built another one that held many, many chapter books (about 25!) before collapsing!



Building bridges

How long a bridge can you make?
How much weight will it hold?
Can you build one with triangles



Challenge: How far can your bridge go from one support to the next?

What can you accomplish just with one craft stick. Hmm, not too impressive. So the length to beat is 5 inches!

Layering the craft sticks doesn't work.

Adding weight to one side to hold the bottom craft stick up. Notice that the craft sticks hang off the ends of the bridge on each side. That design was necessary to balance the sticks and create a space to add the weights in the right place. Kids will notice that the balance point of the sticks + cubes is different than the balance point of the sticks alone.

Building Tips:

You'll need to add weight to either end first before adding craft sticks in the middle, otherwise the whole thing will tip. It helps to have one person adding weight and keeping the structure stable with their hands while the other person adds more craft sticks in the middle.

Figuring out how much weight is needed to balance the sticks without tipping it all over is such a good thought process for kids to experience!

I would recommend this for ages 7+, although younger kids will still enjoy building with these materials. They just may not be able to build the types of bridges pictured in this post.