

# Towers

**Subject:** Math, Social Studies, Science

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Concept:** Economic Concepts

**Method:** Experiential Learning

## OVERVIEW

Each team is given exclusive control over certain materials that the other teams do not have. Ideally, the teams will start sharing their resources and/or work together. Please do not tell them they can share; hopefully they figure it out themselves. The teacher decides what materials to give each team.

Example: Give one team all the paper and another team all the popsicle sticks, etc.

Before you begin, announce the goals:

1. Build the tallest tower
2. Build the most beautiful tower
3. Maximize tower height for the whole city

Break students into teams of 4-5. Tell teams they have 20 minutes to build the tallest free-standing tower possible. Remind students, each team has exclusive control over the materials they will be given. Distribute materials. Give each group one or two types of materials but do not give two groups the same thing. If you give them two it is good to give them things that do not work well together. For example; Group 1: foam board and paper clips Group 2: markers and tape Group 3: pipe cleaners Group 4: popsicle sticks and newspaper. After the 20 minute building round, each team will quickly present their tower for measurement.

**Connection to Entrepreneurship:** Demonstrates the importance of doing business profitably and also doing it "the right way." Concepts being taught- Self-Interest, Trade-offs, and Incentives.