



GUMDROP CHALLENGE

CREATIVITY ACTIVITY

TIME REQUIRED: 45 minutes

SUPPLIES: Gumdrops & toothpicks

GROUP SIZE: Any size group

SKILLS BUILDING: Collaboration, Creativity, Critical Thinking, Flexibility & Inventiveness

INSTRUCTIONS

Divide students into small groups of three to five members. Give each group the same number of toothpicks and gumdrops. Instruct each group to collectively build a structure that can support the weight of an item of your choosing, such as a small book, a stack of papers, an empty water bottle, etc.

Give each group fifteen minutes to work on their structures. At the end of the allotted time, have each group test their structure's ability to support the designated item. Give each group an additional ten minutes to adjust their structure to either support the designated item if it did not originally, or enhance their structure to support even more weight. At the conclusion of the allotted time, pause for a 5-minute gallery walk. While students are viewing the structures of their peers, invite them to jot notes on what they see. Gather students together to discuss the varying structures.

DEBRIEFING QUESTIONS

1. Describe your thought process while building the structure. How did your group decide to organize the gumdrops in the first phase of the activity?
2. In what ways did your group think creatively in second part of the activity?