

Marshmallow Government



Objective:

To build the tallest, free-standing tower possible. This activity is representative of the basic “building blocks” of the foundation of our AP Gov course.

Directions:

- 1) Form an “iron triangle” group of your choosing
- 2) Receive building supplies
 - a. Each group of three will be given a bag containing 50 small marshmallows, 50 uncooked spaghetti strings, 4 large white marshmallows, and 1 “golden marshmallow”
 - b. No extra supplies will be given; you do not need to use all of the supplies
- 3) Begin building your tower once all groups have their materials and the timer starts
- 4) Groups will be given approximately 20 minutes to construct your tower
- 5) Upon completion of the activity, all group members should assist in the clean-up effort
- 6) Wrap-up discussion and deliberation will take place immediately following clean-up

Rules:

- 1) All towers must be completely free-standing (no leaning against a wall or desk or being held up by a group member or other object)
- 2) All towers must begin construction on the floor so as all groups are starting on level ground
 - a. Additionally, each group will be given a small garbage bag to essentially use as a tarp underneath your tower creation to afford for easy clean-up at the end
- 3) All group members should equally contribute to the creation of your tower
- 4) All measurements by the instructor are final (no measurements taken before the timer ends will be counted!)
- 5) **Most importantly, the “golden marshmallow” must be the final piece at the top of your tower!**
 - a. **“golden marshmallow” must remain intact (not split, cut, broken in half, etc.)**
- 6) The winning team is the one that builds the tallest tower measured from floor to the top surface of the “golden marshmallow”!