



# Build a Bridge

Teambuilding

## Objectives

- Groups work together with a set of resources.
- Observe team building processes through group interaction

Supplies: provide the following set of supplies for each group; medium container of water (bowl, pan); bag containing 12 popsicle sticks, 24 inches of string or yarn, 15 paper clips, poster putty (supplies can be modified, but should be the same for each group)

Facilitator needs beans or pennies.

Instructions:

1. Divide group into teams of 3-4; give each team the container of water and a bag of 'building supplies'.
2. Instruct the groups that they have 10 minutes to build a bridge that will span the container of water and that you will be performing a 'strength and integrity test' on each bridge. The bridge must support the beans or pennies as you place them on the bridge. The greater number, the stronger the integrity of the bridge.
3. At the end of the 10 minutes, allow each group to discuss their 'constructed bridge' and how they think it will perform during the strength and integrity test.
4. The facilitator then tests each bridge by placing the penny or beans on one at a time until the bridge collapses.

## Facilitator Notes



Notes for Facilitator:

- Observe the groups and make notes of interactions during the construction phase.
- May also note interactions during the 'testing' phase. Invite selected persons to aid in the observation phase; they will serve as co-inspectors.

Reflection:

- What was the communication like in your group?
- Did anyone take the leader role for your group?
- Were there disagreements about the construction? If so, how was it handled?
- Did your group work as a team?
- What did you learn from the activity and how can you apply it to real-world situations?