

## Pipe Cleaners



### Introduction

This activity helps participants develop their teamwork skills. Students will work with their group members to build a structure out of pipe cleaners. Additionally, this activity allows participants to be creative and agile, while achieving a goal.

### Materials

- 3 pipe cleaners per student

### Instructions

- Give each student three pipe cleaners.
- Divide students into even groups (ideally five students per group)
- Instruct each group to create something with the pipe cleaners. That is the only instruction -they can do anything they want with them, but must work together to create something.
- At the end of the activity, ask each group to share their creation with the room.
- After all have shared, give all teams a minute to decide which creation was the most impressive. Each team has one vote, and must reach a consensus. Teams may not vote for their own creation.

### Discussion

- What role did teamwork play in this activity?
- How did your group decide what your pipe cleaner structure would look like? Did you plan your sculpture before building it or did you just figure it out as you went?
- Did anyone in your group decide to create their own sculpture with their three pipe cleaners instead of working with the group? Did group members create any additional subgroups? How did this affect the outcome?
- How did your team decide on the most impressive creation? Was there disagreement on how to cast your vote?

### Reflecting & Connecting

- The creations were likely more impressive when all team members contributed their three pipe cleaners. Group projects are improved when all team members contribute their unique skills and strengths.
- Communication is crucial when working on a team. If a team member feels that their input is not being heard, they may decide to stop contributing.
- Teamwork requires goal setting. Teams who took the time to create a plan for designing and building a structure were probably more successful than other groups.