

# TALLEST TOWER



**Gear needed:** You can use any combination of stationery items like balloons, rulers, cups, ice block sticks, pegs or pipe cleaners.

**Purpose of activity:** Students will be challenged to work as a team and show leadership skills whilst reflecting on CST principles.

**Before activity:** Separate the gear into paper bags so that there will be a bag for 3-4 players to share. To make the activity really interesting, place different resources into bags so that each group has different opportunities.

**Instruction:** Divide students into 'mini-groups' but let them know they are still one team. Each mini-group can select a bag each and look at what they have. Explain to everyone that the purpose is to build the tallest tower. Clarify the rules (below). The key question before starting is 'Who can build the tallest tower?'

**Rules:** Groups cannot use the bags the resources are in. The tower must stand by itself (unaided) from the ground. No other objects can be used other than what is found in the bags.

**Round ONE:** It is likely that mini-groups will build by themselves and treat it as a competition (it is important not to suggest this at the start). If they do, then give only 3-5 minutes for them to build their tallest tower. At the end of this count them down and compare.

**Round TWO:** Remind them that they are one team and even though they had different gear they could have chosen to build a combined tower. The question was 'Who can build the tallest tower?' Reflect on our culture of individualism and success. Think about the CST principles of solidarity and the preferential option for the poor and vulnerable. Now give them longer to build a combined tower and encourage them to share ideas and work together.

**Debrief:** After measuring their group effort, get students to reflect on their effectiveness as a team. Who were the leaders? Did everyone have a voice? How could they have done better? It may be useful to reflect on the CST principle of subsidiarity. Are there any other CST principles that relate to the activity? (common good, participation, distributive justice etc...)