STICKY STRUCTURES

Design and build "platforms" or "bridges" that can hold weight. Then test which glue makes the strongest structure.

Try it on your own or with a team of your friends or classmates!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- 2 or 3 identical, unopened cans of soup or soda (about 10 oz/300 grams)
- Popsicle/craft sticks (30 per structure)
- Paperclips (10 per structure)

• 2 or 3 kinds of glue (such as a glue stick, school or craft glue from a store, homemade moo glue...)

WHAT TO DO

Draw a picture of the "platform" or "bridge" you will build. Show detail of how many sticks and clips you will use. Your structure should be designed to hold a can 2 inches (5 centimeters) above a flat surface.



Build two or three identical structures. Use a different kind of glue for each one.

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Explore more great things you can

After the glue dries, put your structures on the same flat surface (like a table top or floor).



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Put one can on top of each structure.

Check each structure after 15 minutes, ½ hour, 1 hour, and 2 hours. Which structure(s) still holds up the can? Has any structure sagged or collapsed? Which glue made the strongest structure? How would you build your structures differently in the future?

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If all your structures remained intact, try increasing the load by adding more weight.





• Mussels make their own natural glue—even under water. The glue is so strong it lets the mussels stick to rocks pounded by heavy surf.

