TOWER OF BABEL CHALLENGE

GOAL: Construct the tallest (highest) free-standing tower using only the materials provided by the Teacher.

TIME NEEDED: 25-40 minutes

TEAMS NEEDED: Divide the class into 2-person student teams

MATERIALS: Each team is given the following materials:
- Ziplock bag with 25 colored toothpicks & one-half of a colored 3x5 card
- Ziplock bag with 25 gum drops & one-half of a colored 3x5 card
Teacher will need a tape measure

RULES: - Structure must stand up.
- Each student may only use one hand to build the structure. Their other hand must be placed behind their back.
- Teacher is sole arbiter for measuring and determining the height of tallest structure.

SKILLS EXPLORED: Planning, Creativity, Communication, Teamwork, Coordination, Engineering, Design, Re-Thinking, Testing, Re-Design, Observe Best Practices

OUTCOMES:
- Learn how to work with a partner for a common goal
- Learn how to use limited amount and type of materials in a creative way
- Learn how communication and sharing provides better results
- Learn how to quickly design & re-design a project
- Learn to adapt to changing competitive conditions (i.e., another team building a higher tower)

Notes:
- We have run this activity in each of 8 schools. We’ll announce winners at Youth Entrepreneurship Day on May 24, 2004. It is always amazing to see the creative ways students have of trying to outdo another team.
- Record height: 27.5 inches!
- In one large class we divided class into teams of three students. The best (and funniest) results are from two-person teams. More teams, more fun!

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