

Building Our Problem Solving Skills

(to be used with Episode 4 of The World of Work podcast series)

Soft Skills Highlight: Problem Solving and Perseverance

Growth Mindset Theme: Mistakes Help Us to Learn and Grow

Curriculum Tie-Ins: Math, science

Materials Needed:

- 20 cups (per student or small group)
- 20 large popsicle sticks (per student or small group)
- One character figurine (per student or group)

How to Use This Activity:

Students are challenged to build the tallest, most sturdy tower they can from their allotted materials, in either small groups or individually. The tower must be able to support the character figurine once it is complete.

Activity Wrap-Up:

After the students have constructed their tower, discuss the building process with them, as well as what they learned throughout the activity. Some possible discussion questions include:

- What is one mistake that you made while building your tower that made you adjust or change your design?
- Did any of you knock over your tower while you were working on it? How did you feel? What made you able to try again?
- What is one thing you might try differently if we did this activity again?