

The Three Little Pigs' Straw House

Purpose

Students will construct a model house using items such as straws and paper clips.

Materials

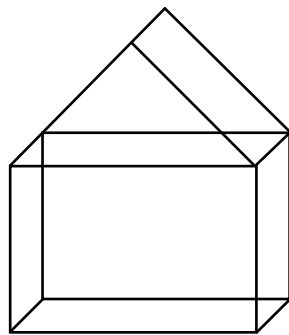
For each student: copy of Black Line Master (BLM) *The Three Little Pigs' Straw House*

For each pair of students: drinking straws, paper clips, pipe cleaners, string, scissors

Activity

A. Planning a House

1. Have students pair up. Provide each pair of students with straws, paper clips, pipe cleaners, string, and scissors. Give each student a copy of the BLM *The Three Little Pigs' Straw House*.
2. Inform students that they are to make a house out of the materials you have given them. Let them know that they can use paper clips, pipe cleaners, or string to attach straws together to make a house.
3. Tell the students that they can make whatever type of house they would like, but it must fit on top of a desk. Show students the drawing below: this is a house that can be made from straws.



4. Provide students with plenty of time to think about their structures. Give students some tips on how to use paper clips, pipe cleaners, and string to attach straws together, such as:
 - Take a paper clip and straighten it. Slide the paper clip through a straw. Bend the paper clip in the center to configure the straw in any shape or angle.

(continued)



connecting
across the
curriculum

English/ Language Arts

Have students read aloud the story of *The Three Little Pigs*. Discuss with students the construction and stability of each pig's home.



EXTENDING
THE
ACTIVITY

Have students measure in centimeters the length, width, and height of the house. To challenge students, have them determine the number of straws and materials that would be needed to double the size of the house.

Standards Links
2.1.5, 2.6.1, 2.6.2

Activity (continued)

- Take a pipe cleaner and slide it through a straw. You can bend each end of the pipe cleaner before placing it into the straw to make it more secure. Bend the center of the pipe cleaner to obtain the desired angle.
- Slide string through straws and then use paper clips or pipe cleaners to add stability and strength to the structure. Tie string off at desired points.

B. Building a House

1. Instruct students to come up with a plan for their house and draw a picture of their proposed model on the BLM *The Three Little Pigs' Straw House*. Have them answer the questions about their plan on the BLM.
2. When students have completed a plan, allow them to begin building their straw houses.

C. Post-Construction Discussion


1. Have each team of students present its straw house to the class. Allow students to ask questions about the houses.
2. Ask students questions such as:
 - How did you get your straws to stick together?
 - How did you make that wall?
 - Why did you choose to use that material?


Questions for Review


Basic Concepts and Processes

As students are putting the final touches on their straw houses, go around the room and ask questions such as:


 What materials did you need to hold the house together?

 What basic steps did you take to put the house together?

 How did your team decide on a plan?

 Did you run into any problems constructing your house?

 How is this model like a real house?

 How is it different?

Name: _____

The Three Little Pigs' Straw House

What is your plan to build your house? Draw a picture of what you think your house will look like below.



1. What materials will you use? _____

2. How will you connect the straws together? _____

3. How big will your house be? _____

The Three Little Pigs' Straw House

Teacher Directions

Hand out the BLM *The Three Little Pigs' Straw House* and have students draw pictures of their proposed straw houses. Have them answer the questions about their plans before they begin construction.

Answer Key

Answers will vary. Check that students have a complete plan and have thought about how they will construct the house.