

Card Tower

4th or 5th Grade

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Benchmark and SLC#

SLC 7: Students will select appropriate resources and tools to make accurate observations to gain desired results given the stated conditions (i.e., if a desired result is to build an outdoor greenhouse to start seeds, the design would have to promote the correct amount of sunlight.)

Objectives:

To build the highest, most creative and most stable card tower that uses all 52 cards.

Materials:

- Deck of cards

Initial Demonstration/Initial Observation:

What types of materials are used to build houses, buildings, etc? Why are these materials used? Hold up a playing card... What makes these materials better than playing cards?

Target Observations:

Brick, concrete blocks, wood, nails, glue, mortar, plaster, etc... are used to build houses and buildings. They are strong, stable, and hold up well under rain, snow, wind, and have friction. The building materials are wider, less flexible, stronger, harder, can stand up on their own, etc...

Target Model:

-Playing cards are not a good building material because they have very little friction and they are not wide enough to stand on their own.

Procedure:

Each group is given one deck of cards. They are to use the cards to build a tower that uses the entire deck and is the highest and most creative. Give the class 30 minutes to work with their group to build the tower. They may use the floor as the base as the tables or desks may wiggle too much.

Target Model:

-Playing cards are not a good building material because they have very little friction and they are not wide enough to stand on their own.

-It is hard to build a very high card tower because cards are unstable building materials.