



21 ELEPHANTS AND STILL STANDING, BY APRIL JONES PRINCE



Maker's Challenge: Build a bridge that spans 9 inches and can hold 21 pennies or small objects.

Build using recyclables and household objects

Shape, cut, fold, or otherwise use things like:

- Cardboard (paper towel tubes...)
- Plastic (straws, cups...)
- Wood (toothpicks, popsickle sticks...)
- Tape (see what kind works best)
- Food (raw spaghetti, marshmallows...)
- Toys (legos, playing cards...)

Test your design

In our story, Barnum put the newly built bridge to a test by loading it with elephants. Unless you also have elephants at home, we recommend loading your bridge with 21 pennies!

Iterate

How did it hold up? Usually, our designs don't work perfectly the first time (even the bridge builders in our book most certainly looked upon several previous bridge designs before building the Brooklyn Bridge). Ask yourself what didn't work, and iterate by making adjustments to your design and testing it again. There's no limit to how many times you can iterate.