



Explore your world

SCIENCE

2

GO

Skyscrapers

Grades 3-5

Pierce County
Library System

Activity

A skyscraper is a very tall building. Building a skyscraper so that it does not fall down in a storm, fire or other emergency is difficult. How high do you think you can build a skyscraper? What materials work best? What shapes and design works best?

What you need:

- Pack of spaghetti or fettuccine pasta
- 30 marshmallows
- 20 straws or popsicle sticks
- Tape or rubber bands
- One marshmallow or a small toy

Try this:

1. Build a tower out of pasta and marshmallows. Discuss what shapes will make the tallest and strongest design.
2. The tower must be able to hold a marshmallow or small toy at the top.
3. Measure the tower.
4. Repeat the process with straws or popsicle sticks using tape or rubber bands.

Discuss: Which structure is the strongest? Which is the tallest? Which skyscraper is best?

Optional: Post a photo or video of your skyscraper to Facebook or Instagram and use #science2go. See what other Science to Go creators have made and achieved!

Local Connection

Tacoma and Seattle have some very high buildings, including 1201 Pacific in Tacoma (338 feet), the Space Needle (604 feet) and the Columbia Center (937 feet) in Seattle. What do you think of local skyscraper designs? If you were in charge of building the skyscrapers in Tacoma and Seattle, what would they look like?

Field Notebook



Add something to the field notebook!

For example: Draw your skyscraper designs or record the height of your different skyscrapers.

Leave feedback at sciencetogo.pcls.us

Keep this sheet.
Collect them all!



Check out all the Science-to-Go backpacks for more fun!

PRESCHOOL Green backpacks

- Animal Babies
- Backyard Animals
- Building
- Cars and Trucks
- Colors
- Counting
- Fall
- Food
- Gardens
- My Body
- Nighttime
- Patterns
- Rain
- Seashore
- Shadows
- Shapes
- Simple Machines
- Space
- Spring
- Summer
- Tools
- Winter

GRADES K-2 Blue backpacks

- Animal Homes
- Birds
- Bridges
- Bubbles
- Dinosaurs
- Ecosystems
- Floating
- Frogs
- Flight
- Insects
- Invention
- Light
- Measurement
- Migration
- Moon & Stars
- Motion
- Ocean Animals
- Plants
- Seasons
- Silly Math
- Sound

GRADES 3-5 Red backpacks

- Animal Survival
- Architecture
- Climate Change
- Electricity
- Engineers
- Forest
- Human Body
- Kitchen Science
- Life Cycles
- Ocean
- Outdoors
- Outer Space
- Real Life Math
- Rocks
- Skyscrapers
- Volcanoes
- Water
- Weather

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