

Shape Builders

Combine 2D and 3D shapes to build a strong structure

Big question

Which shapes help a structure stand tall and stay strong?

Gather

Building blocks or clean boxes; index cards or folded paper; tape; 6-10 books or small cans for testing; crayons; this recording page. Keep small pieces away from Waylon.

Workshop flow

NOTICE (4 min): Find circles, squares, rectangles, triangles, cubes, cylinders, and rectangular prisms.

PLAN (5 min): Draw a structure and circle the shapes you will use.

BUILD (12 min): Build a tower, bridge, or shelter.

TEST (5 min): Add one book/can at a time or give a gentle table shake.

IMPROVE (4 min): Change one shape or support and test again.

Plan, test, improve

Oaklynn writes; Brooksley may draw or dictate

My plan

I will build a _____.

The shapes I will use are _____.

My test

My structure held _____ books/cans.

It stayed strong because _____.

My improvement

I changed _____.

After the change, I noticed _____.

Evidence to save

Oaklynn: labeled plan plus one because sentence. Brooksley: drawing or dictated sentence naming one shape. Optional: add a photo of the finished structure.