

# “In the Construction Zone”

## Module 12, Marshmallow Structures



### Prompt:

Create structures using toothpicks and marshmallows! Build simple shapes or tall towers. Big skyscrapers or a tiny village. What will you create?

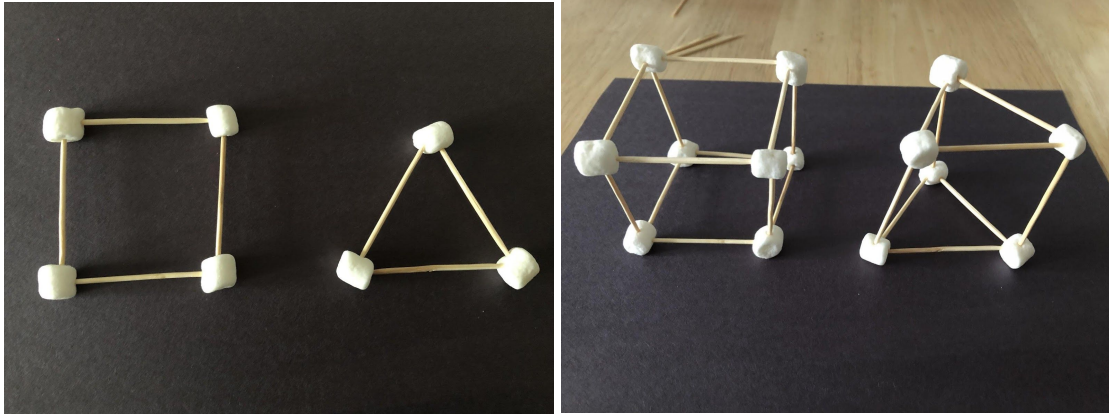
### Materials:

- Mini marshmallows (dried before hand)
- Toothpicks
- Optional: paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils

**Note for caregivers:** This activity works much better with dried out marshmallows rather than soft, fresh ones. If you didn't have time to dry the marshmallows in advance, don't worry-- you can try it anyway. Your child's fingers just might get a little sticky and their structures might tip or sag a little more than expected.

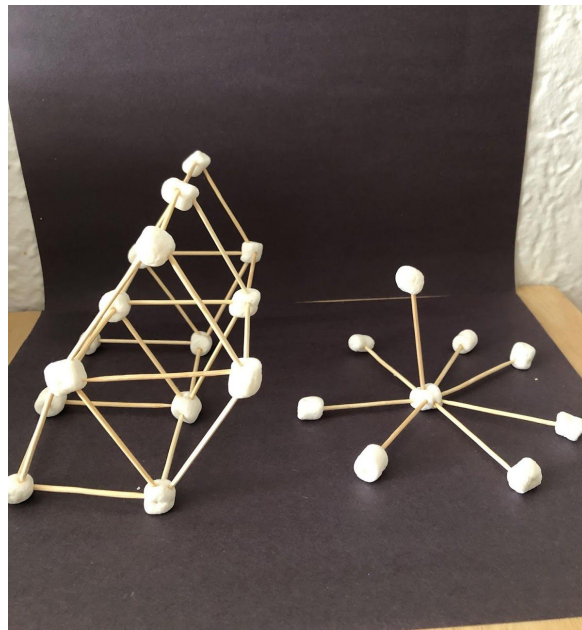
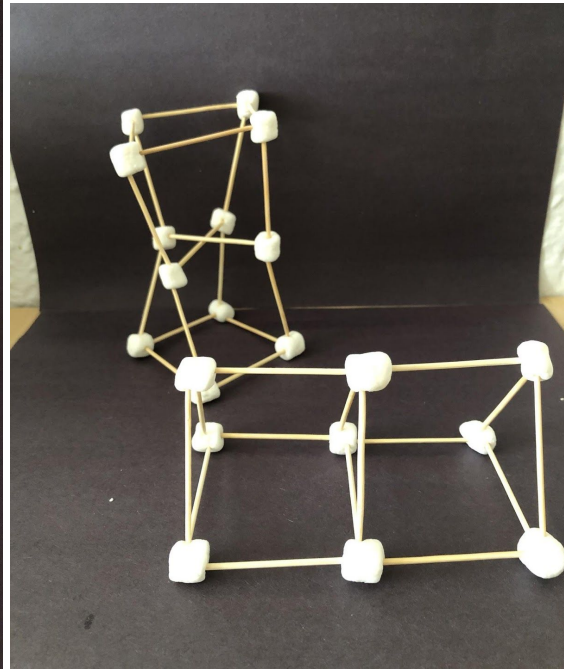
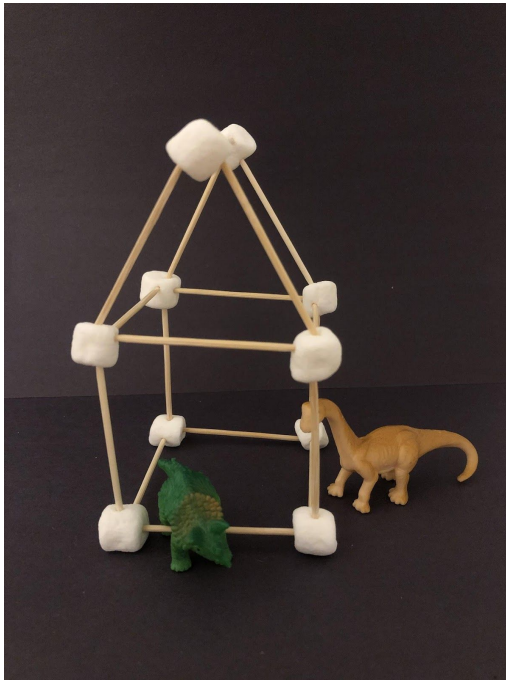
### Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Present the materials to your child. Explain that they will be building with toothpicks and marshmallows.
3. Allow your child time to experiment by putting the marshmallows on the toothpicks. Demonstrate how to make a couple simple shapes with the materials, like triangles or squares. Suggest they start with 2D shapes that lay flat on the table. Then, work together to connect these shapes to make 3D structures.



4. Invite your child to start building. Some children will jump right in. Some children may need a little more prompting to give them ideas of what to do. Here are a few challenges to get your child started:
  - Build a tower as tall as they can without it falling over.
  - Build something using 30 toothpicks.
  - Build a home for a small toy animal or a garage for a toy vehicle.
  - Build a house, a bridge, even a whole city!
  - Or, give them a piece of paper and crayons, markers, or colored pencils, and suggest they start by drawing what they want to build before they start to collect their idea.
5. If your child is having trouble building a structure that stays up, encourage them to think of different ways to make the structure stronger. Maybe it needs a wider base? Or some extra toothpick “beams”? Sometimes adding a few triangles can really help too!

**Resources** Need inspiration? Take a look at the structures made by your *Explore It* guides.



### **Extensions:**

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Take structures apart and make something new!
- Challenge your child to make letters using the materials. How many letters can they make?
- After your child has built a structure, invite them to count how many triangles they see.

How many squares?

- Try to make a structure using only triangles? Or only squares? Which shape is stronger?

Together with your child, go to the “In the Construction Zone” topic on Flipgrid and share their marshmallow structures.