

## Brown Bag Art Challenge

*Promote critical thinking and problem solving while students collaborate to solve a challenge.*

A photograph of a brown paper bag standing upright. A white rectangular sign is attached to the front of the bag with the text "Brown Bag Art Challenge".

Brown Bag Art Challenge

Art with Jenny K.





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# Lesson Plan

## Overview & Objective

Students will work together in small groups to solve a challenge using a variety of supplies and materials

## Background

Talk to students about what problem solving is and what teamwork and collaboration look like.

## Materials

(put supplies out on a large table for students to pick from)

- Brown lunch bags
- Scissors
- Variety of construction paper
- Markers
- Glue
- Tape
- Rulers
- Crayons
- Markers
- Pencils
- Art challenges printed on strips of paper

## Steps

Divide students into groups of 4 or more.

Each group gets one brown bag with a challenge inside. It is okay to give the same challenge to different groups because it makes the outcome very interesting to see how different groups solved the same problem.

Supplies should be set out in one gathering area. Let students decide what supplies they need and get what is appropriate to solve their challenge. Don't decide FOR them what they need!

Give students at least 30 minutes, if not longer to work through the problem solving process. They will need to read the challenge, discuss as a group how they plan on solving it, select the supplies they need and then construct it. Give them time to work through this process!

Students have to figure out how to work together--don't solve anything for them. If they get stuck simply redirect them to their group and reassure them that they can figure it out!

## Summary and closure

As groups finish have them fill out the reflection sheet.

When all groups are finished, let each group share their challenge and solution with the rest of the class.





# The challenges

Challenge #1: Using the supplies of your choice, make the longest line possible.

Challenge #2: Using the supplies of your choice, create the tallest standing tower. The tower has to be able to stand on it's own.

Challenge #3: Using the supplies of your choice, create the strongest bridge. Test it with things around the room to be sure it is strong.

Challenge #4: Using the supplies of your choice, design a house that has 5 windows and 3 doors. The windows and doors must be able to open and shut.

# In Action!



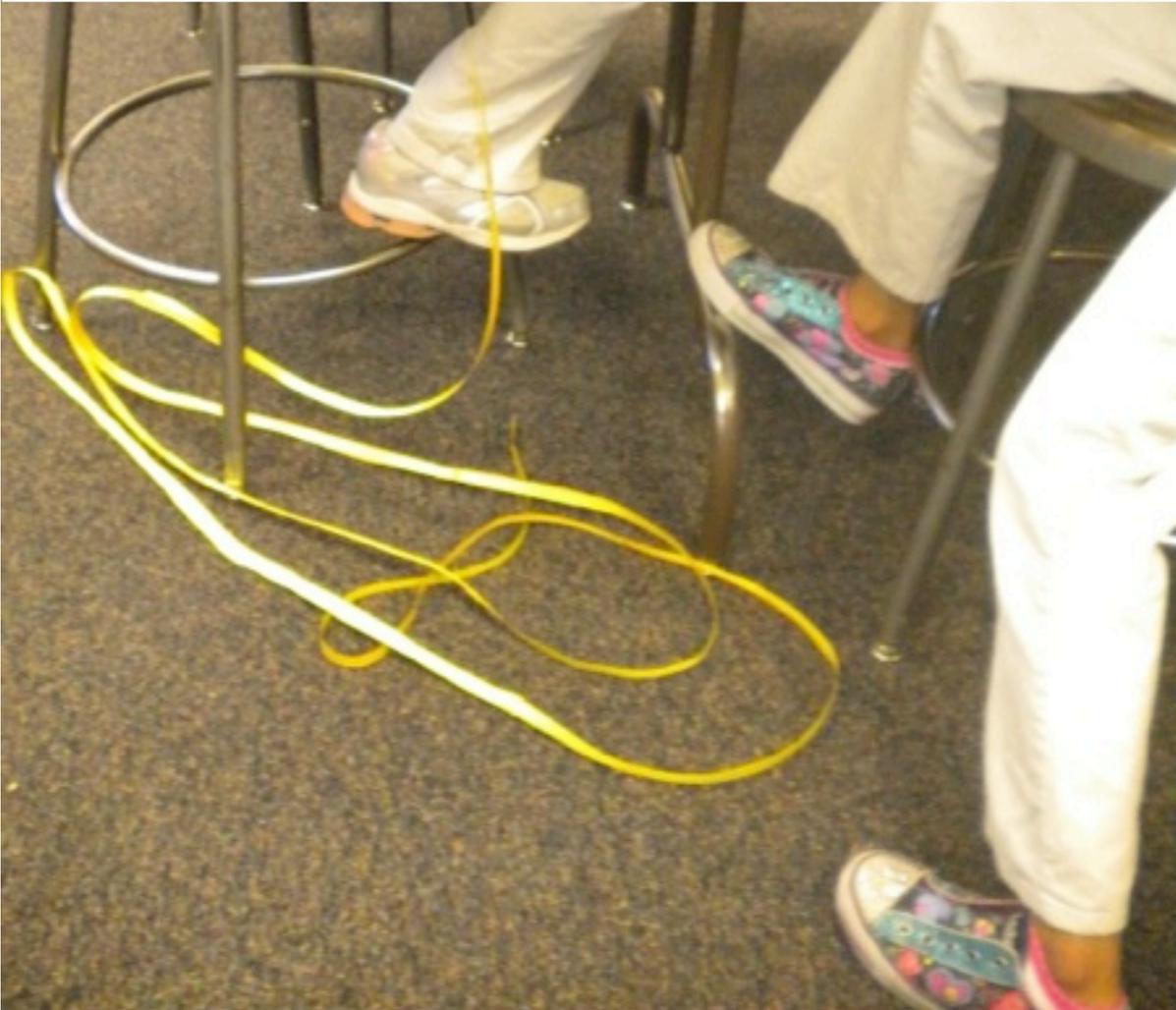
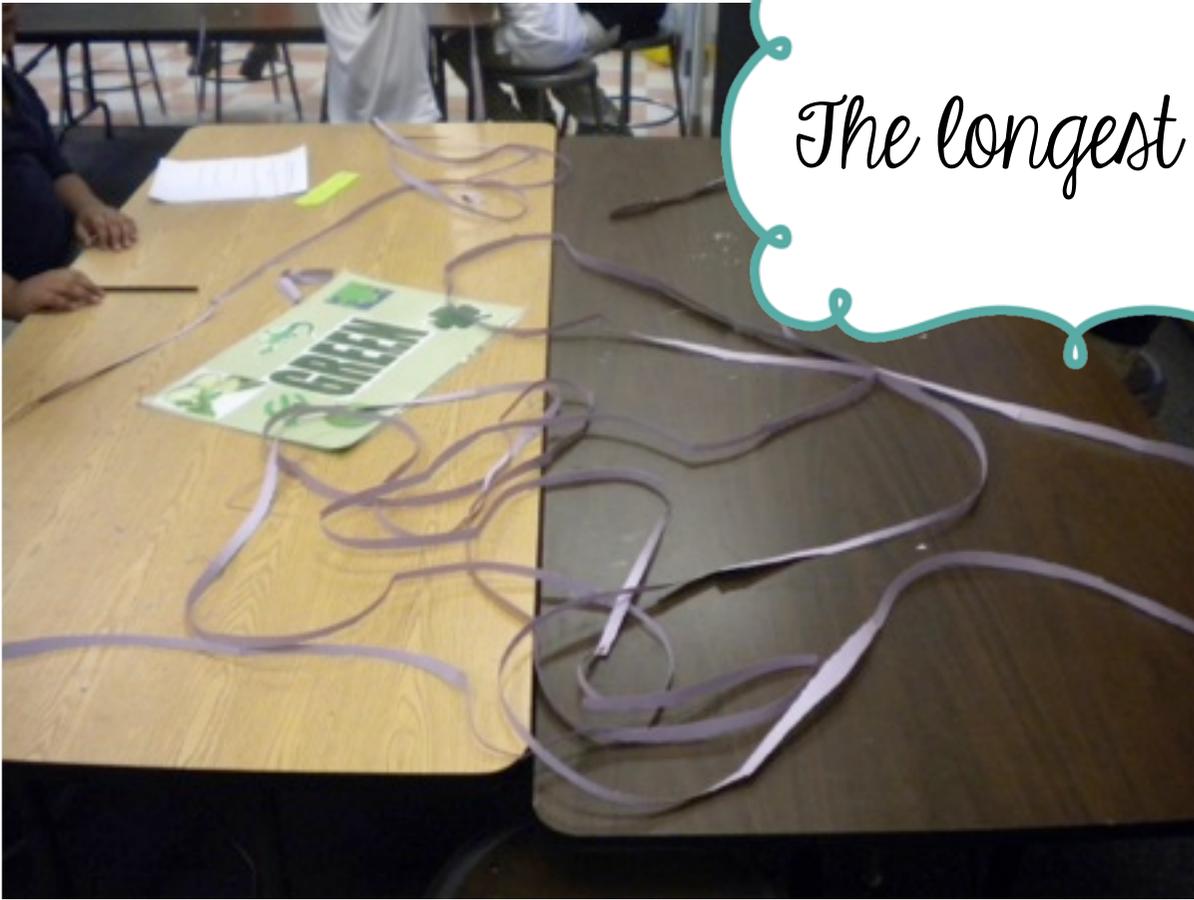
Creating a bridge



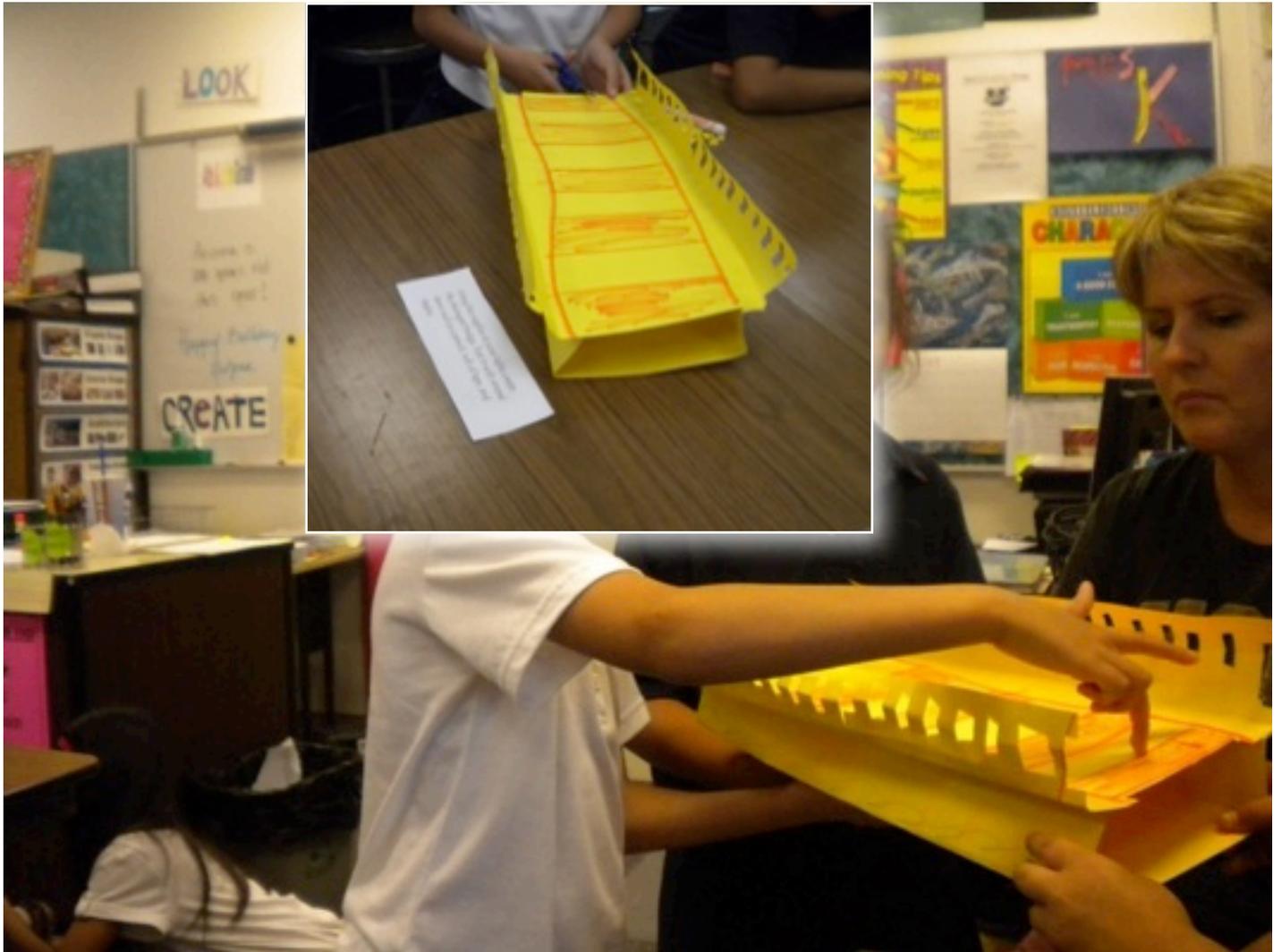
Creating the longest line



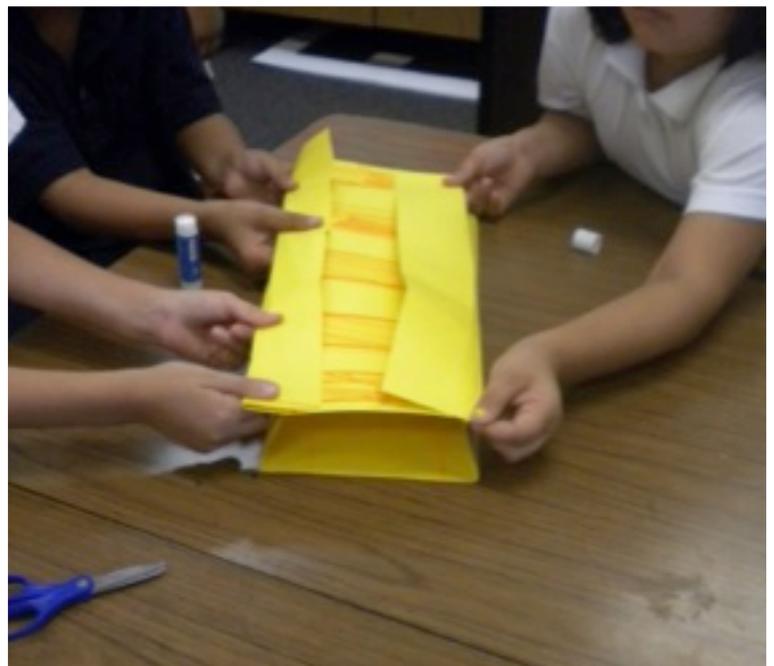
*The longest line...*



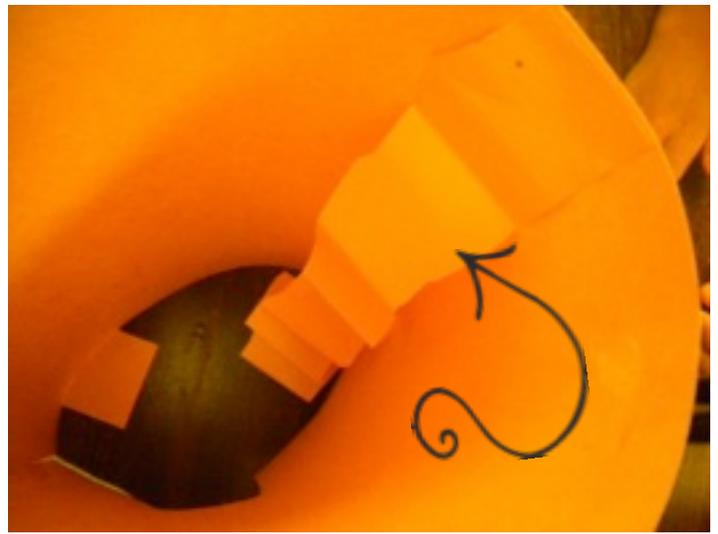
# Kids love to explain their work...



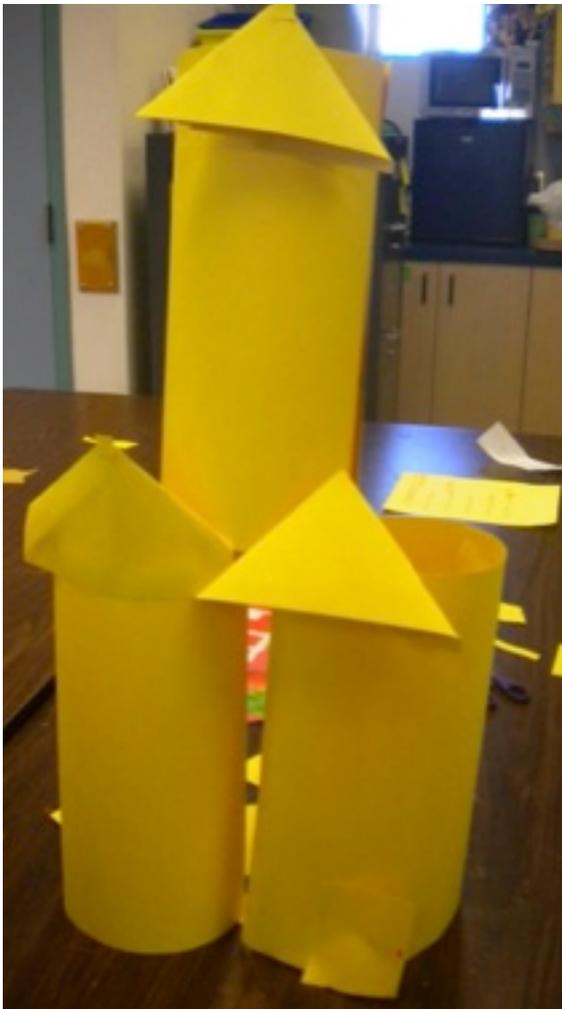
*The strongest bridge...*



*A house with  
windows and  
doors*



*...and stairs!*



*The*

**T  
a  
l  
l  
e  
s  
t**

*standing tower*

# Note to the Teacher



Dear Teacher,

I have included a set of challenges in color and black and white so you can decide which printing option is best for you. In each set, I have two of the same challenge (to optimize printing) and included a blank page for you in case you'd like to create your own challenges or add to the ones I have provided. The reflection sheet and bag labels are also included in this section.

~ Jenny K.

# Your Challenge...

Using the supplies of your choice, make the longest line possible.

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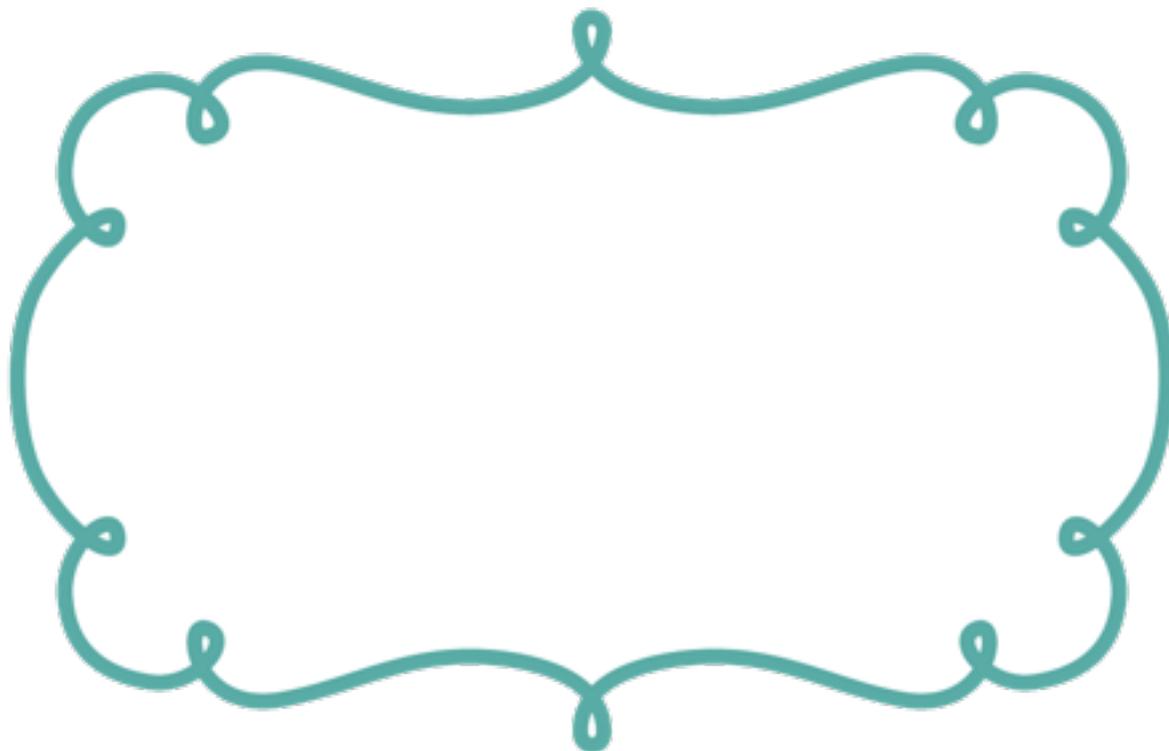
# Your Challenge...

Using the supplies of your choice, design a house that has 5 windows and 3 doors. The windows and doors must be able to open and shut.

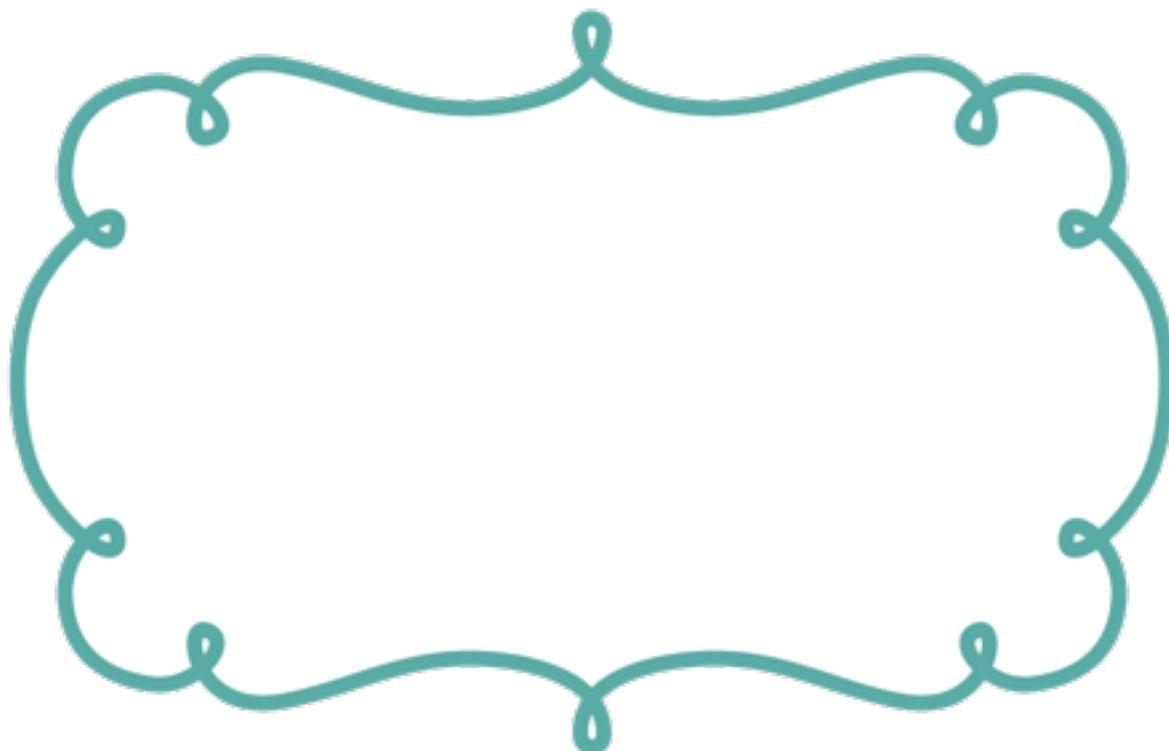
# Your Challenge...

Using the supplies of your choice, design a house that has 5 windows and 3 doors. The windows and doors must be able to open and shut.

**Your Challenge...**



**Your Challenge...**





**Brown Bag  
Art Challenge**

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**Brown Bag  
Art Challenge**



**Brown Bag  
Art Challenge**



**Brown Bag  
Art Challenge**

When you are finished with your challenge answer the questions below.

1. Who were the members of your group?

2. What was your challenge?

3. How did you solve your challenge?

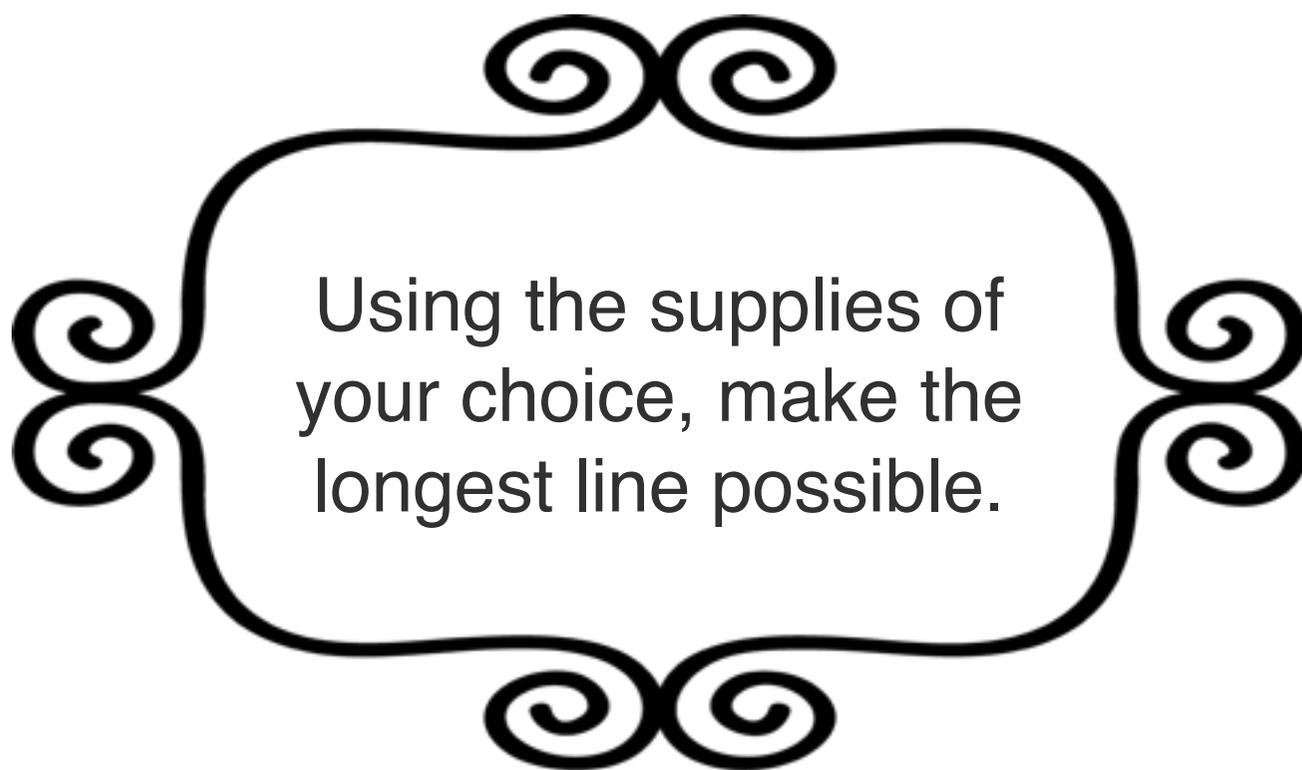
4. Did you think your solution worked well?

5. Do you think your team worked well together?

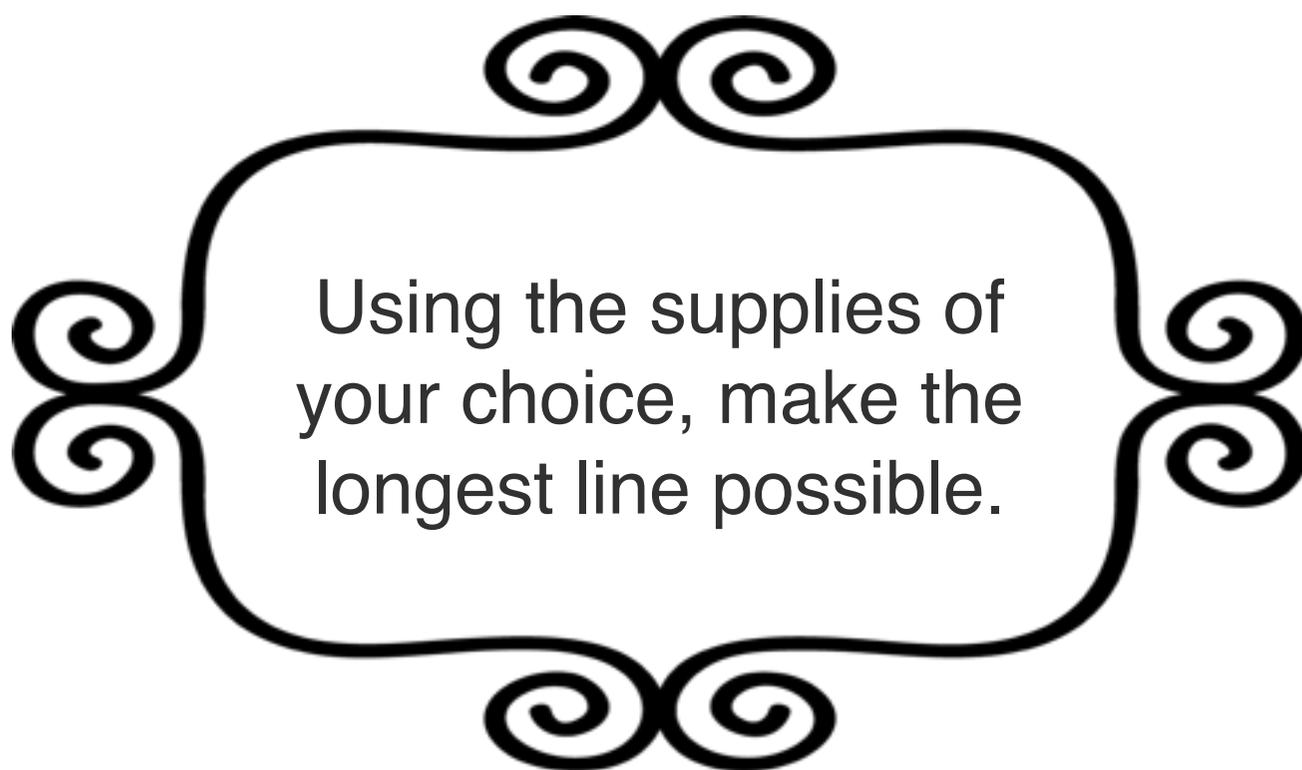
6. Did you have any problems that you weren't able to solve?



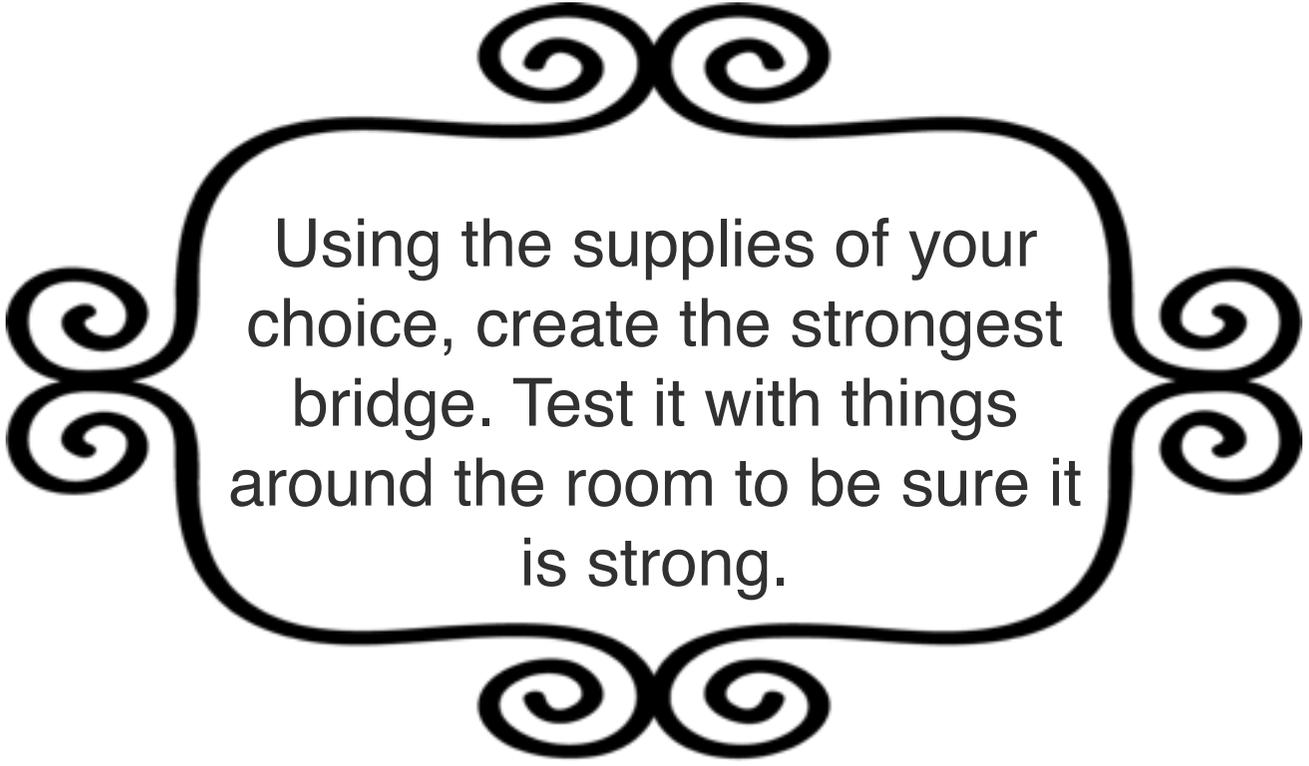
# Your Challenge...



# Your Challenge...



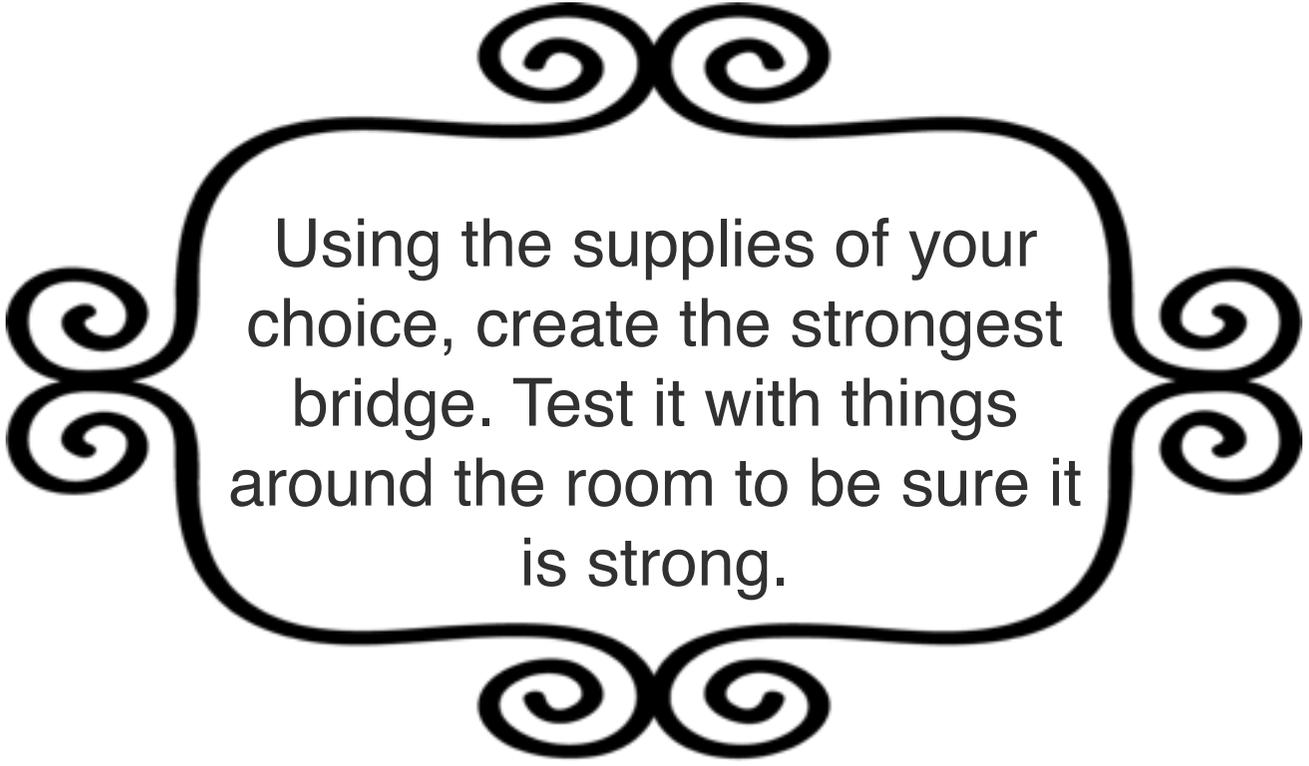
# Your Challenge...

A decorative frame with four scrollwork corners and a central rounded rectangle containing text.

Using the supplies of your choice, create the strongest bridge. Test it with things around the room to be sure it is strong.

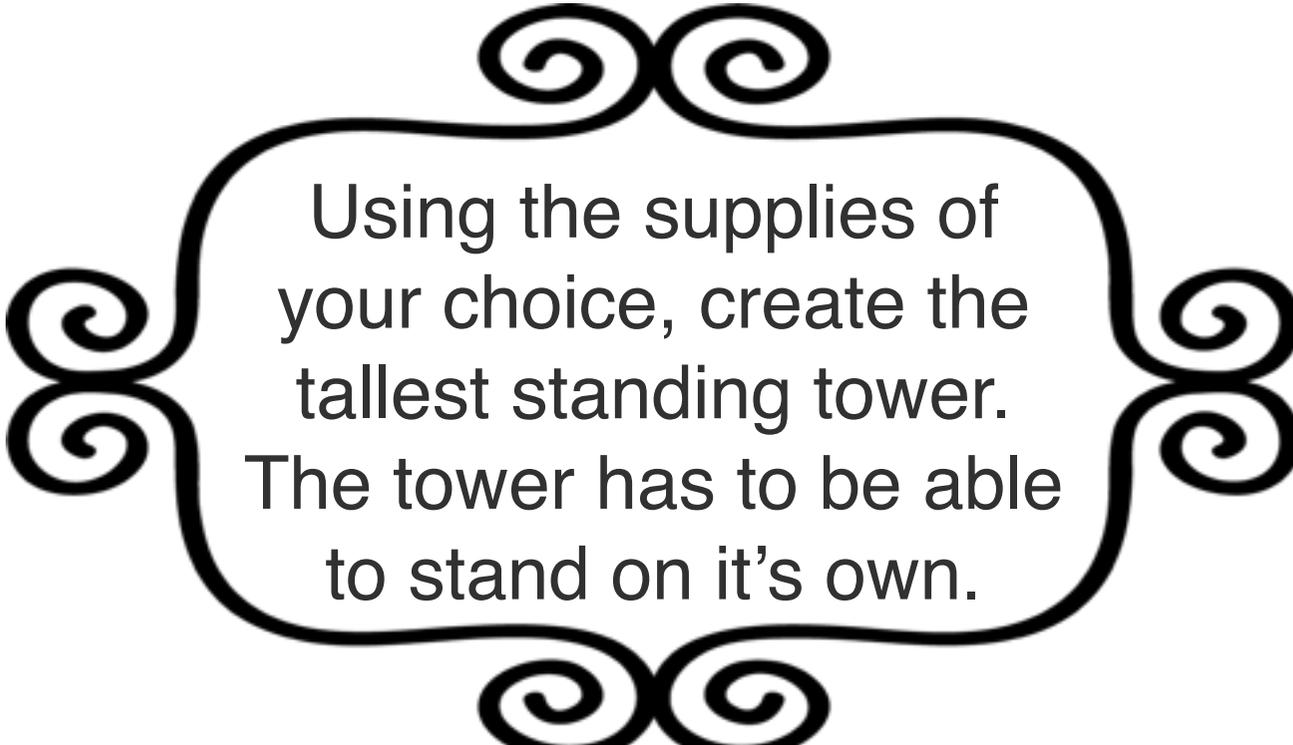
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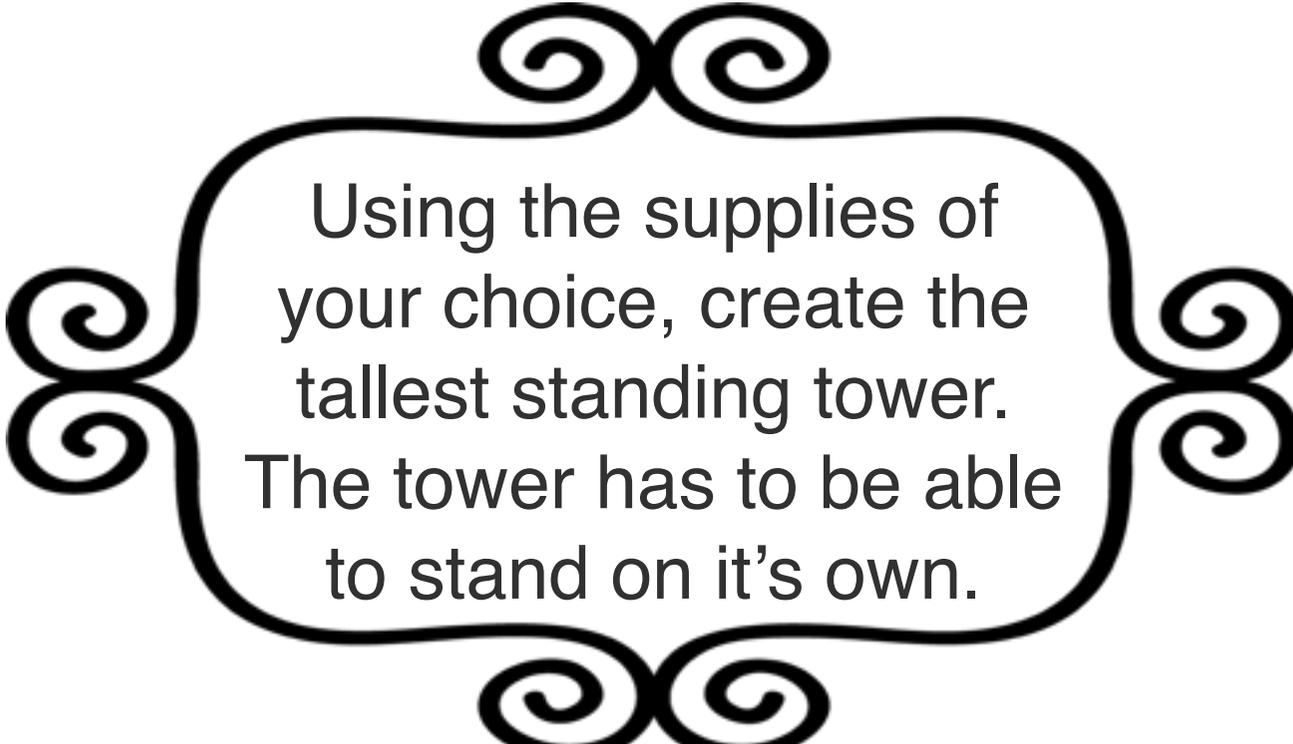
# Your Challenge...

A decorative frame with four scrollwork flourishes at the corners and midpoints of the sides, surrounding the text.

Using the supplies of your choice, create the tallest standing tower. The tower has to be able to stand on it's own.

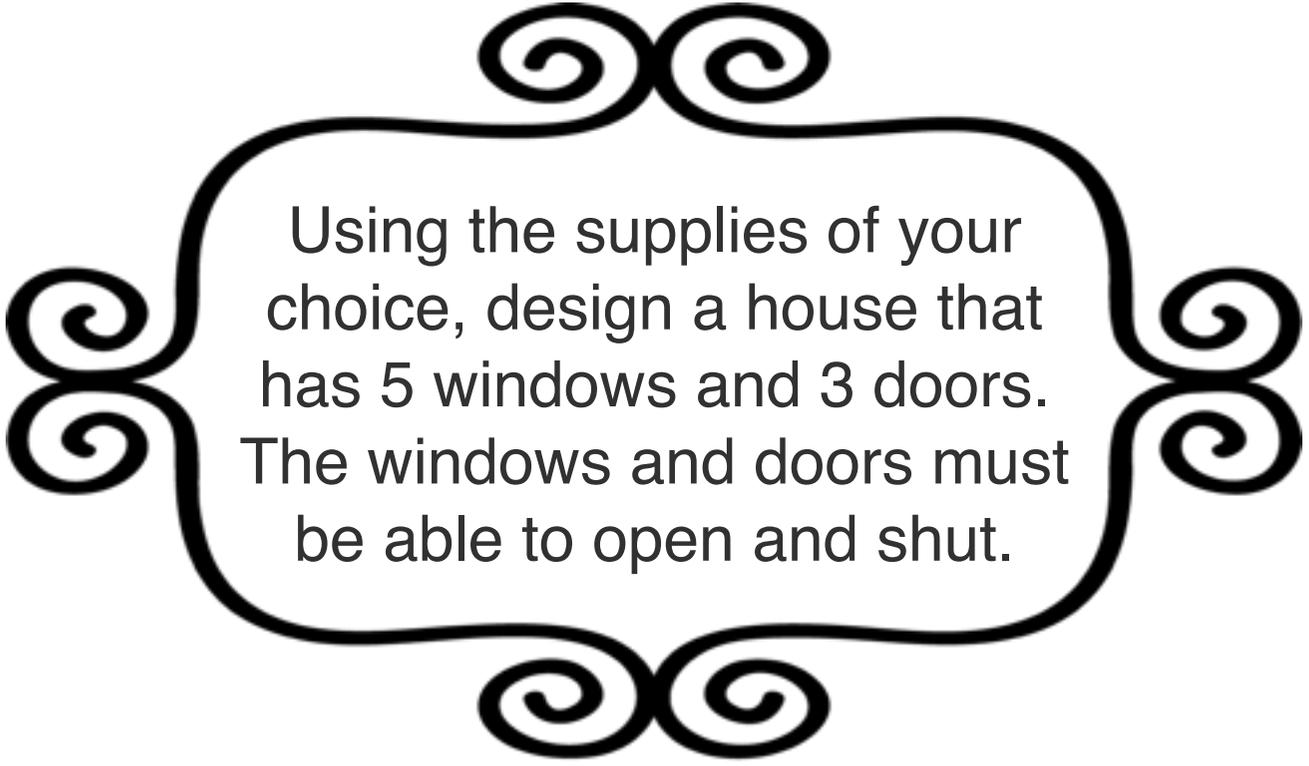
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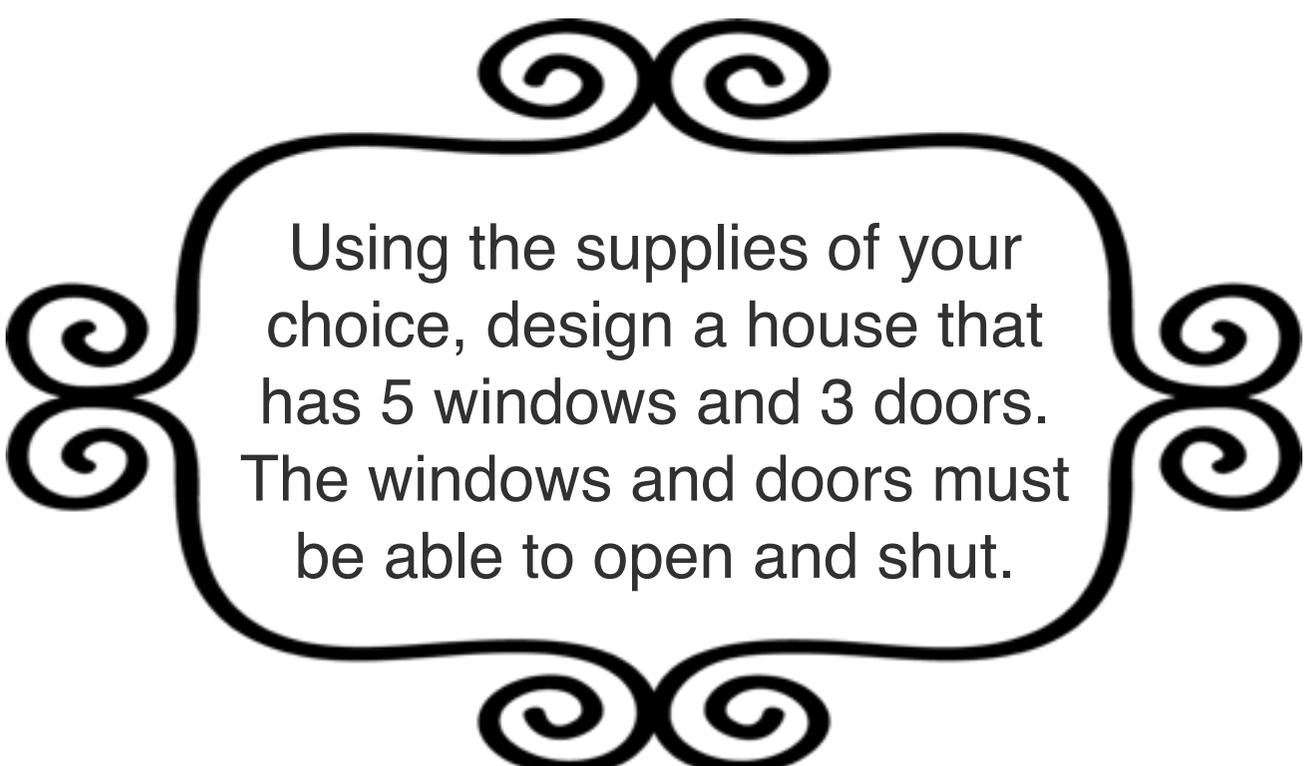
# Your Challenge...

A decorative frame with four scroll-like flourishes at the top, bottom, left, and right, surrounding a central text box.

Using the supplies of your choice, design a house that has 5 windows and 3 doors. The windows and doors must be able to open and shut.

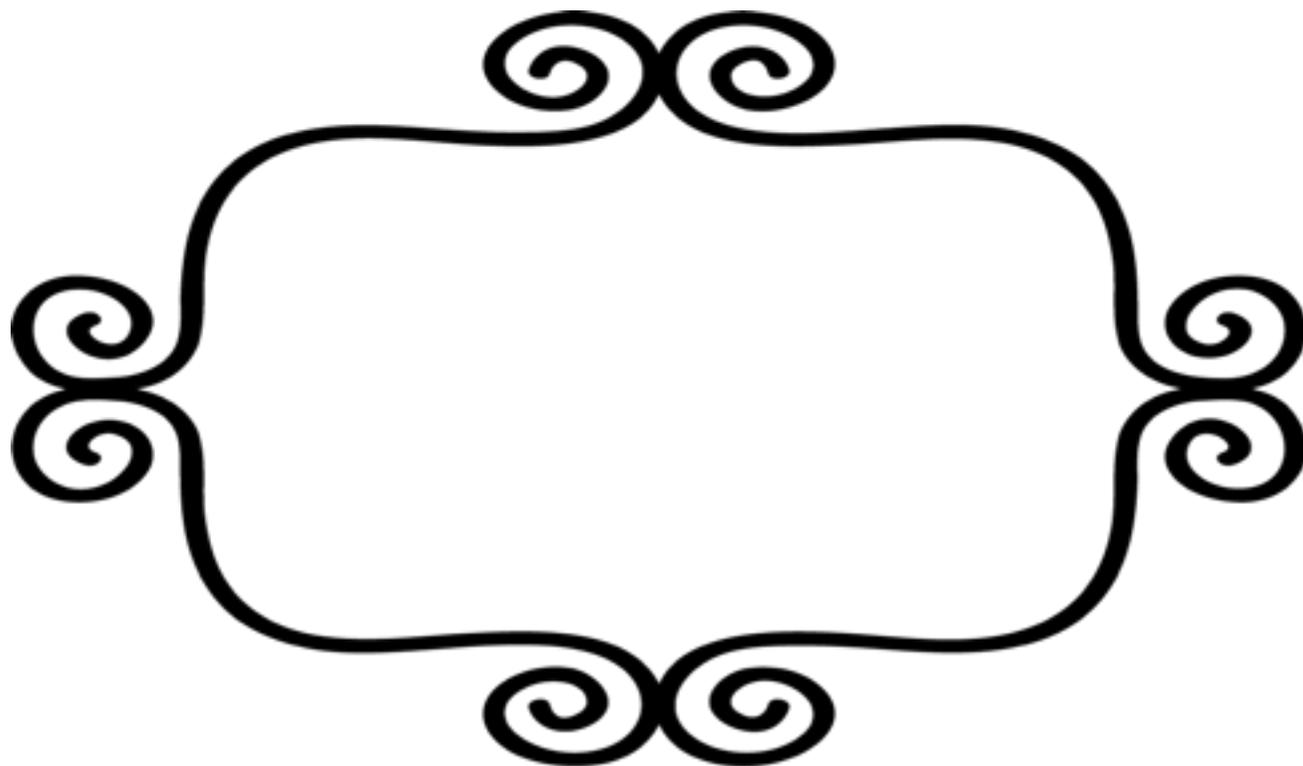
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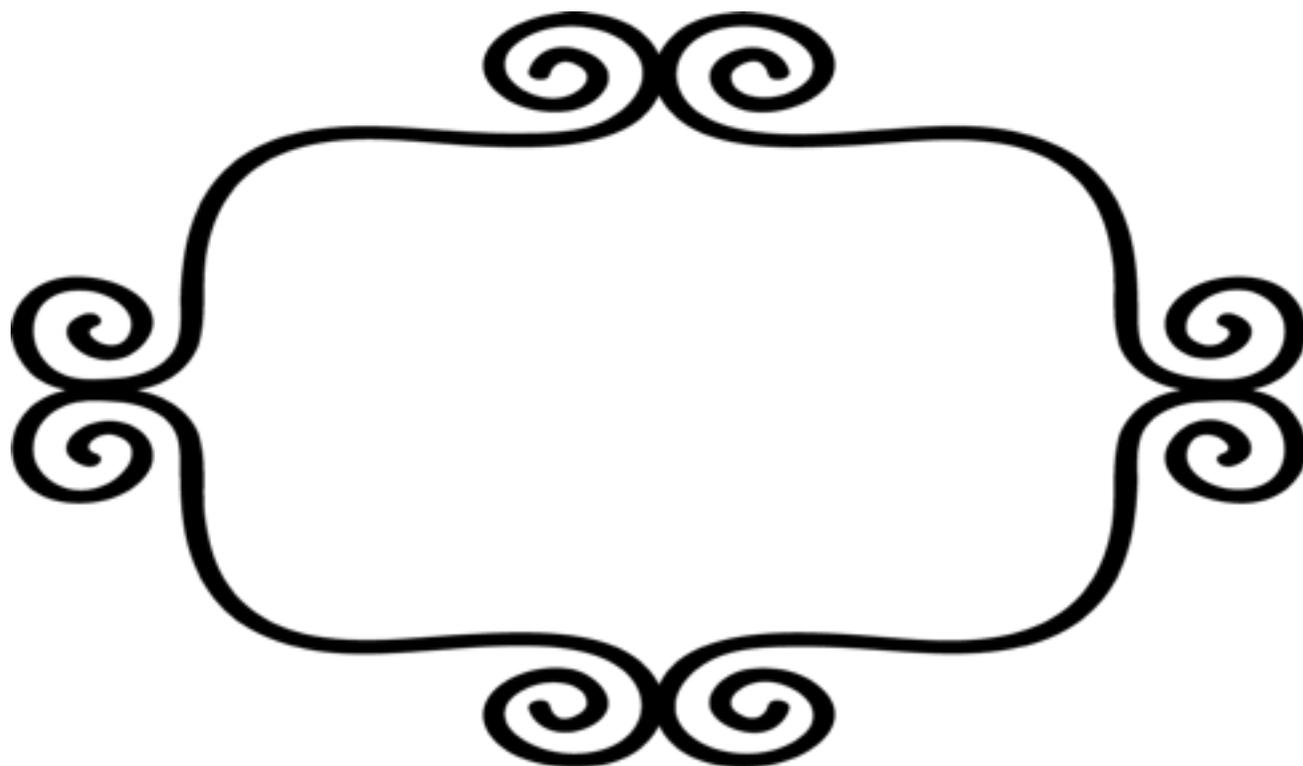
Using the supplies of your choice, design a house that has 5 windows and 3 doors. The windows and doors must be able to open and shut.

Your Challenge...



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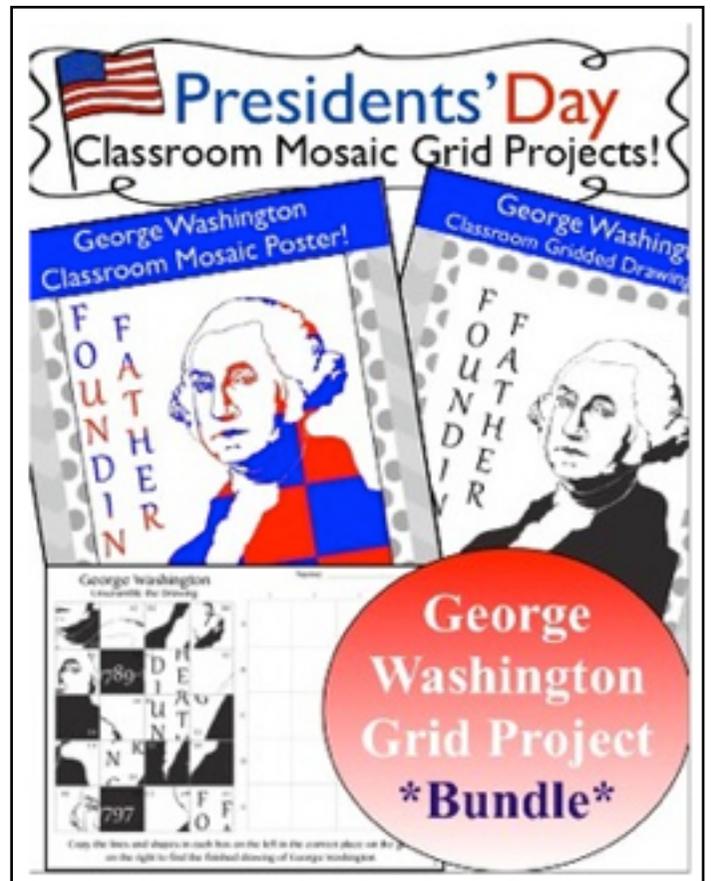
Your Challenge...



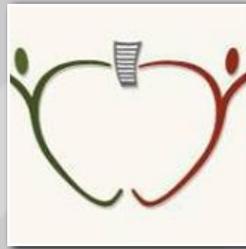
# More creative possibilities for your students...



# Collaboration Opportunities...



Be social...



Click on images  
for direct links to  
social media

artwithjennyk@yahoo.com



# Art with Jenny K

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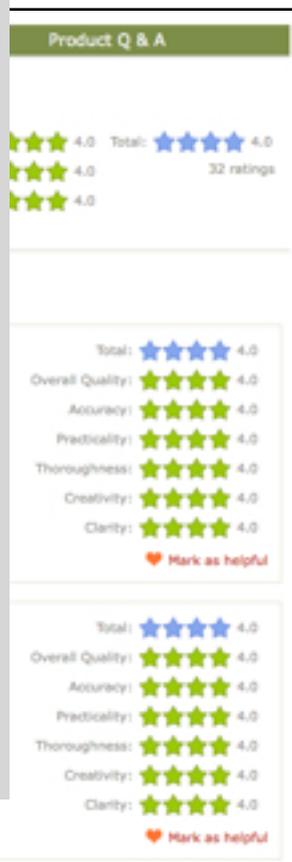
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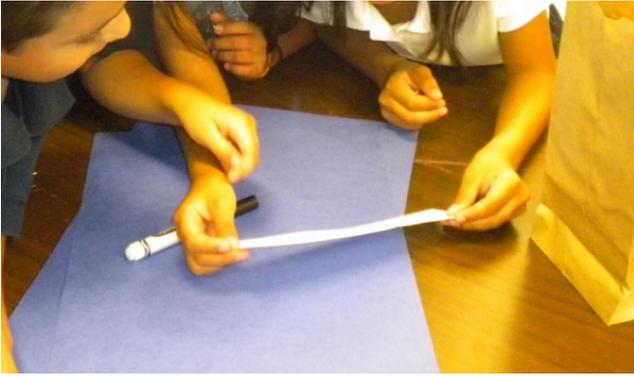
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