

The House that JMG Built

Introduction: This is a good activity to use to help students assess their skills as team members. Students are to construct a house.

Materials: Paper, pencils, glue, tape markers, cardboard, scissors, wallpaper samples, carpet pieces, gravel, wood, popsicle sticks, and similar materials.

Directions:

1. Divide the class into groups of three. Try to mix some of the stronger students with those who are less successful.
2. Each team is to construct a house using the supplied materials. You can place all of the materials on a central table so students may use different amounts to fit their designs. Make sure you have plenty of all the materials listed. Alternately, you can place an equal number of these items in boxes for each team.
3. One student on each team should be elected to lead the **design and planning**, one to lead the **construction phase**, and one to lead the **interior and exterior design phase**.
4. The project may vary in time, depending on your students. A time limit may be set or you may let the students work at their own pace and leave the time allowed for this activity flexible. The total project should take 1-2 hours.
5. The finished houses will be judged in each of the three categories listed above. Ask volunteers from your drafting department or the construction trades program to judge this activity.
6. The specialist should monitor all phases of the activity and photograph or videotape the event. Videotaping will provide the opportunity for the groups to see and hear how they performed as team members. Use the videotape as a basis for group discussion and have students comment on what they learned about being a member of a team.