

77. The Three Little Pigs

Classroom Activity: Use the story the "Three Little Pigs" to investigate building materials

Grade: 1

Strand: Understanding Structures and Mechanisms

This task addresses the following overall expectations:

- investigate structures that are built for a specific purpose to see how their design and materials suit the purpose;
- demonstrate an understanding that objects and structures have observable characteristics and are made from materials with specific properties that determine how they are used.

and the following specific expectations:

- follow established safety procedures during science and technology investigations;
- investigate characteristics of various objects and structures, using their senses;
- investigate, through experimentation, the properties of various materials;
- use technological problem-solving skills and knowledge acquired from previous investigations, to design, build, and test a structure for a specific purpose;
- use appropriate science and technology vocabulary, including experiment, explore, purpose, rigid, flexible, solid, and smooth, in oral and written communication;
- use a variety of forms (e.g., oral, written, graphic, multimedia) to communicate with different audiences and for a variety of purposes;
- describe structures as supporting frameworks;
- describe the function/purpose of the observable characteristics of various objects and structures, using information gathered through their senses;
- identify the materials that make up objects and structures;
- describe the properties of materials that enable the objects and structures made from them to



perform their intended function.

Assessment Categories:

- Knowledge and Understanding
- Thinking and Investigation
- Communication

Type of Activity

- Classroom/Science lab

Preparation:

- Approximate time for activity - 45 minutes
- Group students randomly and equally separate materials for each group

Materials:

Lego blocks
Popsicle sticks
Straws,
3 little pigs storybook
fan/ blower/ hair dryer

Activity

Read the story of The Three Little Pigs. Explain that the students are going to recreate the story by building their

77. The Three Little Pigs

own homes out of straw, brick (lego) and wood (popsicle sticks).

Allow them 15 minutes to work in teams to build the houses. By grouping the students, they are learning team cooperation skills too.

Have the wolf (fan/ blower/ hair dryer) huff and puff and blow the house down. It would be great if a disguise can be created for the fan/blower/hair dryer to simulate the actual story.

Explain to the students that each material is light /stronger/ rigid/ flexible and explain that thru accompa-

nying connections can make the material stronger (nails, beams, etc).

If time permits allow them to rebuild with each of the 3 materials with connecting pieces. For the wood, use the Popsicle sticks with grooves in them. For the straws use the building straws and connectors toy that have the cross shaped interconnections to make the straws hold.