



STEM Kit: **SUSPEND GAME**

Program Level: All

Suspend games are a great way to work as a team to try to suspend all of the pieces from the game stand – one wrong move and everything may come toppling down.

Supplies Provided:

- 3 sets of Suspend Game

What to Bring:

- NONE

Instructions:

1. This is best done in groups of three to four groups per game set. If you have a larger troop, consider making this a rotation station, or a self-led activity for half of your group while the other half does another activity.
2. Set up the stands – there are straight metal pieces that fit together into the base piece, and a wooden connector to support the tallest metal piece with a hook at the end.
3. Girls can either roll the dice to see which color part they need to add, or they can each take turns picking something to add to the structure.
4. Emphasize that everything will topple – that’s the point of the game! After the first time, check in with the group to see what they want to do differently on their next attempt. Remind them (if necessary) that it’s not the last piece added that makes everything topple, but everything added to the suspension prior to toppling! No one is at fault 😊
5. When finished, check the area for missing parts – the parts are easy to lose when the parts topple over.

Why?

Engineering is all about problem solving. A couple things to ask while facilitating this activity are:

- What didn’t go right the first time you tried it? Could you find a solution?
- How did working on your own or with a couple friends help you? What made that tough?
- If you were to plan to do this activity again, would you want to do differently?
- Was there a method that resulted in a very stable structure?
- How could this activity relate to an engineer’s work?

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