Answer Key

Build a Bridge!

Teacher Instructions:

1) As a class, test how much weight a single lasagna noodle can hold and discuss how this might affect bridge strength and how you can use this information for bridge building. Optional: Ask students to predict how much weight different materials/their bridges might hold.

2) Divide students into small groups and allocate materials. Any available materials work; suggested materials listed below.

3) Use whatever materials are available to you. Suggestions are provided below. You may have students use a “budget” to add a math element to this activity or simply provide the materials.

4) Have students test the strength of their bridge by using pennies or similar weight. How many pennies* can the bridge hold?

*Pennies are increasingly difficult to obtain. Alternatives include: candies (e.g., M&Ms), buttons, bottle caps, legos, etc.

Example Material Costs

Piece of lasagna - $1

Glue - $1

Tape roll - $1

Pack of rubber bands - $1

25 mini marshmallows - $1

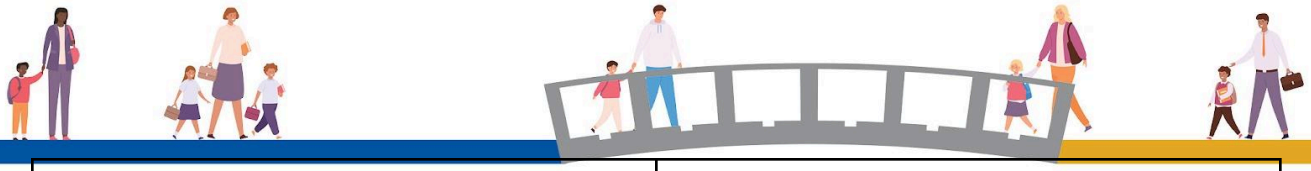
Box of toothpicks - $1

10 straws - $1

Pennies (to test weight) - free

Blank Budget

Material	**Cost**



	Total:

Example of Budget:

Material	**Cost**
30 Straws	$3
Tape roll	$1
Piece of lasagna	$1
	Total: $5

NOTES: