

# Snack Engineering Quick Guide

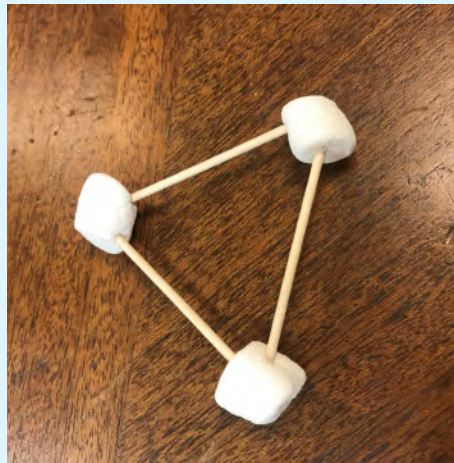
## TIPS

1. Toothpicks really work best, but if you are worried about the sharp ends, pretzels worked well. You could also try uncooked spaghetti noodles!
2. The bananas were too heavy to put in the middle of a structure but they made a great base!
3. Be sure when cutting the fruit that you give the students thick pieces, this makes it easier to stick multiple toothpicks in each piece.
4. The marshmallows can get sticky!!



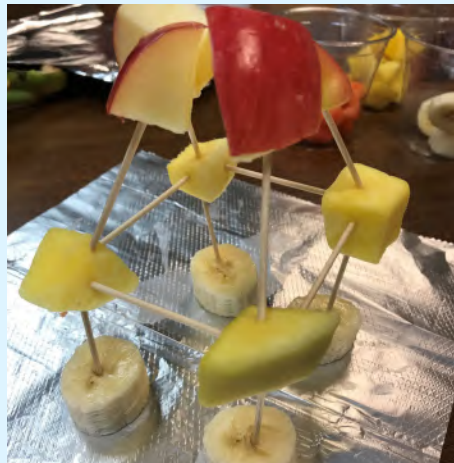
## Set-Up

Separate snack items into different cups/bowls/napkins in reach of all of the kids at the table. Give each kid a place to work too, this can be a sheet of foil (picture above) or a plate, napkin, etc.



## Starting Easy

Begin by guiding students through creating simple shapes with the toothpicks and snack items. Begin by just connecting 2 toothpicks together, then create a triangle (pictured), square, rectangle, etc.

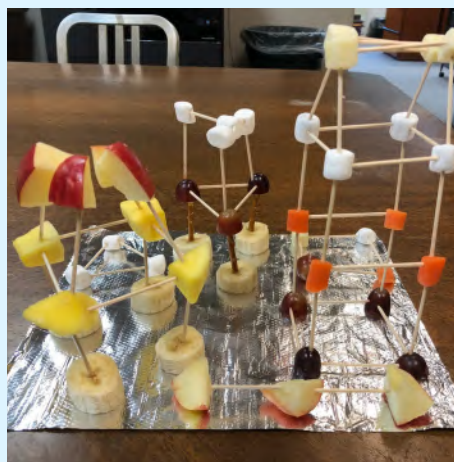


## Build!!

Once the students are comfortable connecting toothpicks, encourage them to build a tower, house, castle, or whatever they want. Remind them to be careful of the sharp toothpick points!

## SNACK ITEMS TO USE

- bananas
  - apples (cut in to chunks)
  - grapes (whole & halves)
  - mango
  - carrots
  - marshmallows
  - cheese cubes
  - pretzels
- Other items to consider trying:  
bread cubes, ham cubes, candy (be careful, that can be a distraction for the kids!), any other sturdy snack item that you'd like to try



## Final Product

Let each child share about the structure that they built. Have them describe what they built, how they structured it, and why they chose certain snack items.