

BUILDING BRIDGES

Number of players: **4-28**, class divided into 4-person teams
Age of players: **7+**
Duration: **45 minutes**

Materials needed:

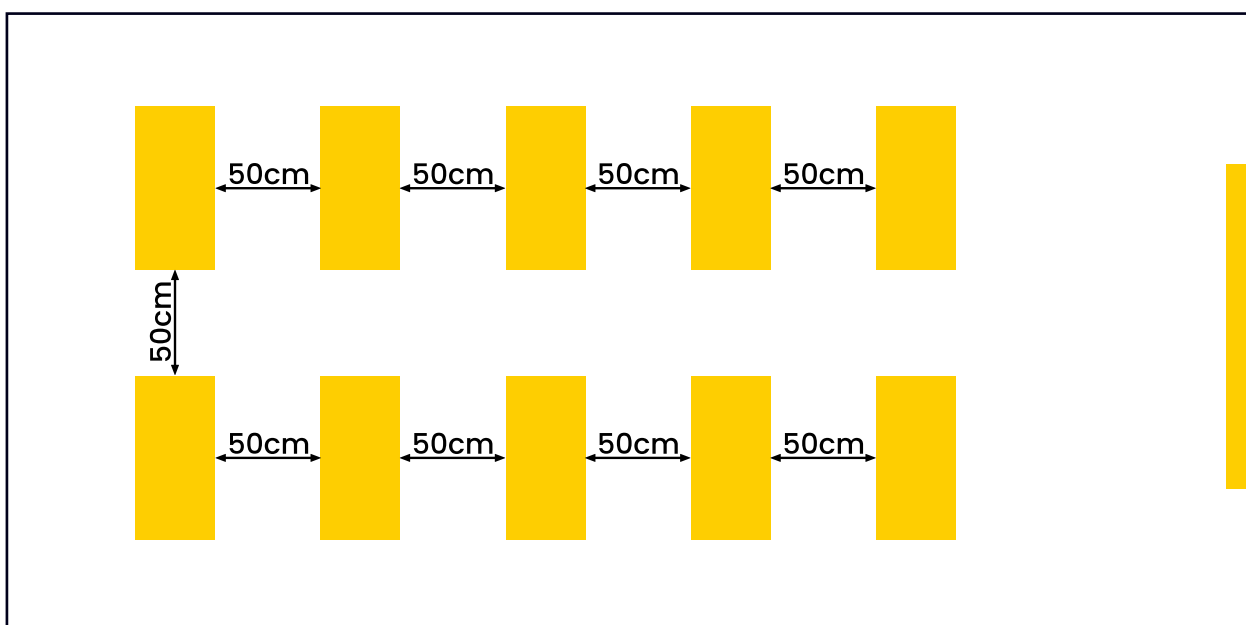
The package of materials for building a bridge for each group of 4 people consists of a ping pong ball (for each group) and a set of materials, such as:

30+ skewer sticks and paper tape (aka painter's tape),
30+ skewer sticks and clear tape (scotch type),
30+ paper/plastic straws and paper/transparent tape,
30+ crayons or markers and insulation/transparent tape.

Space:

Space for each group to work: a space of 50 cm to 100 cm (depending on the age and size of the group, available space and the amount of available materials) between two benches, preferably of the same height.

Example of room setup for 9 groups



Before class:

1. Check how large your class/group is.
2. Prepare packets of bridge-building materials so that when the class is divided into teams of four (possibly five), each team will have one packet.
3. Familiarize yourself with the content of the presentation to be displayed in class.
4. Prepare the classroom space so that each team has a place to work (see Space section).

Course of action:

1. Turn on the presentation with instructions with the title **"Building bridges"**.
2. On the benches, prepare materials for each group.
3. Give a presentation of the instructions to the class.

Game flow:

1. Set the timer for 20 minutes, inform the class.
2. Start building.
3. Inform the class of the passage of time ("half time has passed," "5 minutes left," etc.).

Game Conclusion::

1. If any group reports the end of bridge construction before 20 minutes, try to roll the ball over it. If successful, suggest that the group create a route from the remaining materials leading to the next bridge (on a bench) or suggest adding decorative elements.
2. After 20 minutes have elapsed, ask the class to stop their work - determine together if they need an additional 5 minutes or if all groups are ready. If necessary, set the timer for another 5 minutes.

3. When the construction is complete, ask everyone to move away from the bridges. Try to roll the ball across all the bridges from the first bench to the last bench.
4. If the ball drops or locks at some point, try again, starting from that point - maybe you should push the ball with more or less force?
5. After testing the bridges, capture the structures in a photo. Then ask the class to clean up their work stations. Collect materials that can be reused separately.
6. Highlight all the successes of the class (Did all the bridges get built? Did all groups take up the challenge? Did the groups cooperate?).
7. Ask the class about their impressions (How did they work? Did they have fun doing it? What hindered their work? What helped?).
8. If the task has worked well for your class and the students are eager to try it again, you can carry out a variant of the game you invented or together with the class, such as building a tower, a house or a public building. It all depends on your creativity.