

Earthquake Test

Build a structure, shake it gently, and discover what helps it stay standing.

30-45 min

Medium

Your Challenge

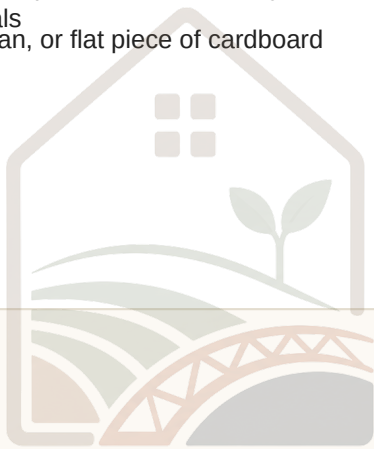
Build a structure that can stay standing when the surface underneath it moves.

What You'll Need

- Blocks, cups, cardboard, or recycled materials
- Tray, pan, or flat piece of cardboard
- Tape

Talk About It

- What moved first?
- What helped your structure stay standing?
- Which design worked best?
- Why do engineers test buildings?
- What would you change next?



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Caregiver Tip

You do not need to give the answer. Ask a question, notice what happens, and let your child decide what to try next.

Earthquake Test

Step-by-step activity guide

30-45 min

Medium

What to Do

- 1 Build a structure on a tray or movable surface.
- 2 Think about its height, base, shape, and supports.
- 3 Gently shake the tray.
- 4 Watch what happens.
- 5 Notice what moves first.
- 6 If it stays standing, try a slightly stronger shake.
- 7 Change one part of the structure.
- 8 Add supports or change the base.
- 9 Test again.



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Engineer Again

Try changing the base, supports, or height and compare the new result.