

# What Is a Podject?

A podject is any type of project or activity inspired by or connected to listening to a Tinkercast podcast (podcast + project = podject)! We at Tinkercast believe that Podject-Based-Learning is a wonderful way to engage and excite students.

A podject can be...

- Individual and / or partner or group work
- Big or small—try just one step of TinkerClass, or try all four—Listen, Wonder, Tinker, and Make
- An active investigation of a real-world question, challenge or problem
- A place to record what happens during the experimentation or design process
- A multimedia presentation that helps students show what they have learned
- Something to be shared



**Guided Design Challenge**

## SPAGHETTI TOWER

This activity aligns with Pop-Up Pasta Party

## The Big Wonder

Engineers identify and try to solve problems they see in the world, which often lead them to create WOW-mazing design solutions. The problem or Big Wonder we will focus on today is, "I wonder how to make the tallest, strongest structure possible using spaghetti tape and string?" Record your ideas here.

**THINGS YOU KNOW OR WONDER ABOUT**

BUILDING TOWERS

## The Plan

Let's get ready, Engineers! Gather the materials and add a photo of them here.

**MATERIALS**

- 20 pieces of dried spaghetti
- Masking tape
- One yard of string
- One large marshmallow
- Clock, timer or stopwatch

## Build & Test

Here we go, it's design time! Follow these steps to investigate The Big Wonder.

**WOW-TO:**

Step 1: Set a timer for 18 minutes.

Step 2: The challenge is to build the tallest spaghetti tower possible using all of the suggested materials and nothing else.

Step 3: The only rules here are that the structure must stand on its own and support the marshmallow on top of the structure.

Add your photo here.

## Improve & Retest

Reflect on your work. How might you improve things? Maybe it's time to try using the materials in different ways.

## Reflect

Add text, photos, video, or audio here!

**WOW FINDINGS!**

What WOWed you?

What did you learn?

