The Scenario

Quickly demonstrate how to build a small pyramid using the coloured cups. Emphasize the importance of having good balance and being as quick as possible to be successful at a stacking cups competition. Students must then build the highest pyramid possible out of the colored cups within a specified timeframe. Afterwards, students are challenged to try their other hand and compare the results.

Open-Ended Inquiry Questions

How high can you build a coloured pyramid of cups?

Process Skill(s)

Constructing, predicting, planning,

Instructions

Stacking cups are fun! And data collection opportunities abound. Try having your team build a pyramid with their right hands only and then switch to their left hands only. Was it easier? Or was it harder? Challenge your students to come up with different ways of building the tallest pyramid.

For example, have students make coloured patterns on their pyramid and translate it into code. For example: red, red, blue, blue, blue, red, red would become rrrbbr. They could create an entire code for a five level pyramid and then give it to another group to reproduce.

Notes:

Curriculum Connections

Properties of Materials, Relative Position and Counting, Number Sense