

# Budget builder



Stage

30 mins





## Aim of activity

Managing your time and money can be tricky. Take part in this competition to see if your team can manage money well enough to build a skyscraper!

## What you'll get out of it

- Discover how to manage a budget.
- Apply budgeting skills to real life.

## What you'll need

#### **Suggested:**

- A timer
- A whistle
- Paper
- Pens
- Scissors
- Glue
- Bubble wrap
- Sticky tape
- Sticks

- Water bottles
- Sticky tack
- Crayons
- Lollipop sticks
- Cardboard boxes,1 per group
- Raffle tickets





### Before you start

Your leader will display the materials you can use with their prices in the middle of the space.

#### What to do

Get into teams of four. Grab 15 raffle tickets, a pen and some paper. Your task is to build the world's tallest, most attractive tower – in only ten minutes.

Look at the prices of the materials. What can you buy? Spend five minutes planning your budget and how you'll build your tower.

## Top tip

Think about how long you can use the materials for, as well as the cost. Will you pay for the scissors and crayons at the same time, or wait until you've finished with the scissors to buy the crayons?

Remember, you don't have to spend all your raffle tickets at once. Why not keep some as a contingency (an amount set aside for unexpected spends)?

Pay your leader for the materials you're going to start with. When everyone's ready, she'll blow the whistle – get building!

Every two minutes, your leader will blow the whistle and everybody has to stop for ten seconds. At this point, hand in any materials you've hired. You can also trade in any tickets you have left for more materials.

Item	Cost (no. of raffle tickets)	Length of time
Scissors	4	Two minutes
Glue	3	Two minutes
Paper – one sheet	1	Duration of activity
Bubble wrap	2	Duration of activity
Sticky tape	3	Two minutes
Wooden stick	6	Duration of activity
Water bottle	8	Duration of activity
Sticky tack	3	Two minutes
Crayons	3	Two minutes
Four lollipop sticks	4	Duration of activity
Cardboard box	8	Duration of activity

After four minutes, your leader will blow the whistle as usual. But this time, there's been an unexpected rise in prices, and you can't afford to keep all your materials! Your leader will take away something you've bought. Can you buy anything to replace it?

- Six minutes in, you get an unexpected bonus each team gets four tickets!
- Once ten minutes are up, your leader will blow the whistle one last time. It's time to vote for the best tower!
- Finally, competing against the other teams, take turns to come up with budgeting tips. If your team pauses for more than five seconds on your turn you're out!

### Take it further

Make your own budget for the next two months. When and what will you spend your money on?