

You will need:

- Mini marshmallows
- Uncooked spaghetti noodles
- Small toy elephant
- Scissors

This is a photo of our elephant barn under construction. Can you design a barn for a tiny model elephant? Test your STEM skills and see how you can make a sturdy and safe structure for your elephant. Elephants need a safe place to rest, get medical care and shelter from storms yet still be able to see each other. So can you design “see through walls?” What might that look like?



Directions:

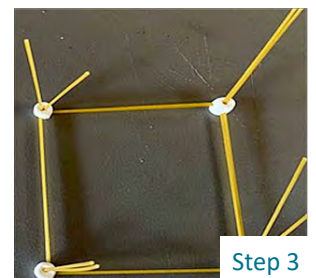
1. Take out 8 pieces of spaghetti and break in half. You may want to use scissors to get precisely the same size pieces.



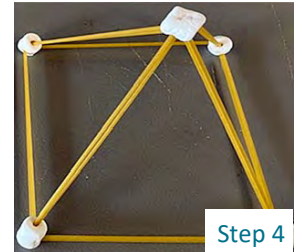
2. Create the square base by using 2 pieces of spaghetti per side and 1 marshmallow for each corner. You have now used 8 pieces the same size.



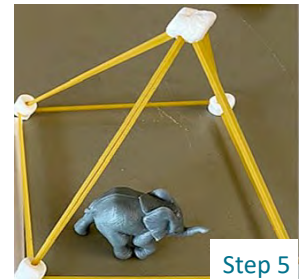
3. Vertically attach 2 pieces in each of the marshmallow corners. Using 2 pieces together makes your elephant barn stronger.



4. Carefully lean the vertical pieces inward and secure with a marshmallow. If you tried to make a box rather than this pyramid, you will find out that the pyramid is much stronger (think like an ancient Egyptian.)



5. Let your elephant enjoy!



6. To give your elephant even more space, repeat steps 1-5 as much as you like and place side by side.



7. Try adding a floor and a roof. You can use other things from around the house such as popsicle sticks, cardstock, rubber bands and tape.

8. Did you know our elephant barn has heated floors? How would you do that for your barn?

9. Show us your creations on our Facebook page “Adventures in EdZOOcation” or tag the North Carolina Zoo at #NCZOO or #NCZOOED.

