

Lesson 16 Alternative Lesson 1 Introduction – What is an engineer? Newspaper structures

- Note:** If this lesson is used as the first lesson, Lesson 1 Plastic Rod Structures can be used as a second lesson.
- Objectives:** Students will get an overview of the content, structure, and logistics of the class.
- Students will understand the behavioral expectations while in class.
- Students will get an understanding of what technology and engineering are.
- Students will practice using open-ended problem solving skills in a group setting
- Materials:** Use materials from Museum of Science preparatory lesson: What are engineering and technology? (See Museum of Science curriculum. Each unit begins with the same preparatory lesson.)
- For each student: Pencil, markers, handouts, journal
- For each group: Three sheets of newspaper
- Sponge:** Students decorate the first page of their journals using markers. Page should include “Young Engineers” and the current year.
- Project:** After doing the Museum of Science lesson, give the students an opportunity to build a simple structure as a group. Give each group three full-sized sheets of newspaper. Each group is to build a free-standing structure as tall as possible with only the newspaper. The structure must stand on its own for at least five seconds. Groups compete to see who can make the tallest structure.
- This project, including explanation, discussion, and cleanup takes no more than 15 minutes.