



The Paper Bag Challenge



What is it?

The Paper Bag Challenge is a fun activity that requires students to design and make a product to a given criteria.

Students will work in teams to make a paper bag that is capable of holding 6 x 500ml bottles of water. This bag could be decorated to add an additional design element to the challenge. The bags will be exhibited and presented to the rest of the class, who should judge each bag on its strength, design and correct use of resources.

Students should also look for the team which best demonstrated the enterprise skills.



Ideal for...

Individual	Small Group 👍	Large Group 👍
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Duration...

1 Lesson	1/2 or full Day 👍	Week	Longer
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Resources...

Newspapers, white A4 copier paper, colouring pens, pencils, ruler, PVA glue.

Enterprise stickers to recognise and reward use of enterprise skills throughout the challenge.

12 500ml bottles of water to test the bags (Brief requires only 6 bottles but in the event of a tie break extra bottles can be added until one bag reaches a breaking point).

Lesson plan

Begin by focusing students' attention and setting the context for the lesson by introducing/recapping on the Enterprise Commandments and key words. Share learning objectives and outcomes with students.

Divide class into groups of 2-4. Give a brief of the enterprise challenge - making a paper bag strong enough to carry six 500ml bottles of water. Explain that the enterprise challenge will be judged, not only on the finished product, but also on how the group have demonstrated the relevant enterprise skills.

Key questions:

What enterprise skills will this challenge involve?

What tasks need to be done to complete this challenge?

Who is going to lead each task?

What makes your bag stand out from the others?

TOP TIPS - Remind the students that the bag has to be strong enough to hold six 500ml bottles of water!

Brief students

Develop ideas

Make the product

Test the product

Assess students' success

Learning objectives

Students will become more familiar with the terminology associated with enterprise and develop their enterprise skills while taking part in the challenge.

The 'Enterprise Commandments' are met in this activity in the following ways:

- Everybody matters, so cooperate**
All students join in the challenge, whether working individually or as part of a group
- New things try them**
This will be a new activity for the students
- Take the lead**
Some students may lead in various ways e.g. putting forward ideas about design, delegating tasks or supporting and motivating others.
- Ears – use them well**
Students listen to the brief and to each other's ideas throughout the challenge
- Respond to others – communicate**
Students will use a range of communication skills – gesturing, smiling and speaking and

listening to each other when carrying out the challenge.

- Perform as a team**
During the challenge, students are required to work in small groups and support each other
- Responsibility – show it**
All students will help to tidy up at the end of the challenge. Limited resources are available so students will have to use them responsibly
- Initiative – take it**
Students think what to do before asking staff – creating their own ideas and leading on them within the team
- Solve problems**
The students will need to think about the purpose of the bag i.e. to carry 6 x 500ml bottles of water, to ensure their design is strong enough to take the weight and has sufficient space to hold all the bottles
- Every day meet your deadlines**
Students will be given a time to complete their task so will need to consider time management

Learning outcomes

All students will demonstrate enterprise skills as they work in a group to create a paper bag using limited resources.

Most students will show teamwork by making a paper bag

Some students will take the lead by solving problems and delegating tasks to others

Other key outcomes:

- To understand the need for planning before the paper bag is made
- To use resources efficiently e.g. not wasting paper, understanding the limits of resources available
- To estimate the space required to hold the number of bottles before creating the bag – ensuring the product is fit-for-purpose and can hold the weight of the bottles
- To understand that there are many different ways of making one product
- To understand the value of the appearance of something

Cross-curricular outcomes

Literacy – Sharing ideas, listening to instructions, presenting to the rest of the class

Numeracy – sequence activities, prioritising and dividing resources to suit the tasks, measuring, estimating, counting, use of shapes

Design and Technology – designing, making, evaluating a product that is fit for purpose and recycling.

Art and Design – creating an attractive product – creativity, use of colour and different techniques e.g. weaving



Plenary

The challenge should involve mini plenaries throughout the duration, recognising enterprise skills as the students demonstrate them.

However, a more complete plenary should take place at the end of the challenge and could be used as part of an evaluation process. This will include revisiting the learning objectives and outcomes. Have the students demonstrated enterprise skills? How?

The following questions should be asked:

- What skills have you used from other lessons during this challenge?
- What skills have you developed today that you can use in other lessons?
- Has each group created a paper bag capable of carrying 6 bottles of water?
- Are the bags well designed and aesthetically pleasing?
- Which of the enterprise commandments have you developed through this challenge?

Differentiation opportunities

The task can be differentiated in ways that can make it more difficult for more able students. This could be achieved by reducing the resources to one sheet of newspaper or giving a shorter period of time to complete the task.

To make the task easier, string could be added to the resources, team sizes could be increased and the time scale extended. Also, the amount of water bottles the bags are intended to carry can be increased or reduced accordingly.

Follow up work

Which were your strongest/weakest enterprise skills?

Have you mapped your enterprise skills in your workbook?

Why not try the Paper Shoe Challenge – similar activity but more difficult – how far can you walk in paper shoes?



Enterprise skills in use

	P1-P3ii	P4-8	Level 1-4
Co-operation			
Trying new things			
Leadership			
Listening			
Communication			
Teamwork			
Showing Responsibility			
Using initiative			
Problem solving			
Time management			

About BeeSpoke Enterprises

This challenge is a product of BeeSpoke Enterprises, an initiative developed by Catcote School Business and Enterprise College with support from local business Xivvi Ltd. All of the challenges, materials and resources have been developed by drawing upon 15 years of experience delivering and embedding enterprise within secondary special education. Catcote School Business and Enterprise College have been commended for their work on enterprise and their Director of Specialism – Business and Enterprise was recently awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion.

To find out more about other products and services go to www.bee-spoke-enterprises.co.uk or contact the school on **01429 264036**