

Top tower

Essential facts: The Eiffel Tower

- The tower weighs 10,000 tonnes.
- It is made from 15,000 iron sections.
- 2.5 million rivets hold the tower together.
- It is over 300m high.
- There are 1,665 steps to the third-level viewing platform.
- 60 tonnes of paint is needed to paint the tower every seven years.

Fast-thinker challenge

● **The task:** In pairs or groups of three, build the tallest tower you can. It should rest on a cardboard base, but be free-standing and able to support a small glass marble at the top. The results will be measured and the winning group will be the one that gets the marble furthest off the ground.

● **The materials:** The only materials each group will be allowed are: 30 drinking straws; half a metre of sticky tape; scissors; a marble; an A4 sheet of thick cardboard; paper; pencils.

● **The time:** You will be allowed 45 minutes to complete the task. Then all work must stop for the towers to be measured. You should spend about 15 minutes designing and planning your tower and then spend the rest of the time on its construction. Good luck!

