

# How to Make Newspaper Stick Structures

In this activity you will learn how to make a multi-purpose building material for models from something you would normally throw in the recycling. Sticks made from newspaper! These can be made into simple shapes, build high towers, make model trees or use on other model making projects.

**Please note:** You will need to leave the sticks overnight to dry before you can use them!



## This is what you'll need

- Newspaper
- PVA
- Water
- Old paint brush
- Paste mixing tray-recycle a plastic tray
- Masking tape or elastic bands
- Large flat surface you can easily clean

# Get making, this is how

## Making the sticks



1. In your tray make a paste by pouring the same amount of water and PVA glue into it (an old egg cup may be a good measuring tool!). Mix well using the paintbrush to stir!



2. Cut the newspaper into strips. It can be any width or length but bigger pieces will need more paste. This is not an exact science, see what works best for you. Then brush some paste along the lengths of the newspaper.



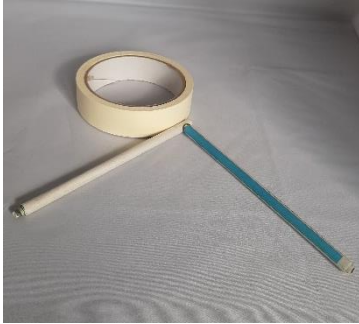
3. ROLL! You may find that the newspaper gets a bit loose, if it does you can fold it over and keep rolling. Make sure the last bit of newspaper is pasted down. The first few might be a bit messy, it takes a bit of practice. Place each stick to one side to dry.



4. Leave overnight to dry and make some more!

## Joining the sticks

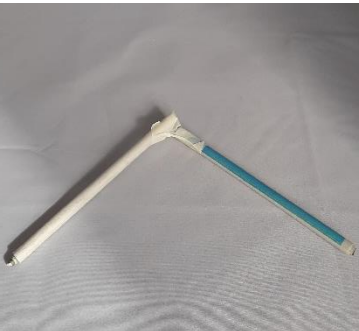
To make the sticks connect together you can use string, elastic bands or masking tape/cellotape. The easiest way is with masking tape.



1. Place the two sticks you wish to connect next to each other



2. Rip a small piece of masking tape off and cover the ends of the two sticks, making sure the contact between the two ends is firm and they are completely covered.



3. Wrap the remaining tape around the ends of the two sticks, putting more on if necessary. They should not wobble but hold their shape firmly.



4. Start joining more sticks together using the technique above, making sure that every join has enough tape to secure both ends.

## Start making a structure!

Have a look at different structures you can see either out of your window or on the internet. What are the different shapes they use? What supports do they have? How do they support themselves?

Try sticking your sticks together to replicate the different buildings, bridges and follies you have seen. Why not try merging some together or create your own ideas? How tall can you make them? Which shapes seem strongest?



## Find some inspiration

Why not explore our RIBApix Collections to see what buildings you could try and recreate using sticks? We've put some of our favourites below to get you started!



Louvre, Paris: the Pyramid, 1993.  
Designed by I. M. Pei & Partners  
Photographed by Emmanuel Thirad

Source: [Emmanuel Thirad, RIBA Collections](#)



Pompidou Centre (Centre National d'Art and de Culture Georges-Pompidou), Paris, 1996.

Designed by Piano & Rogers

Photographed by Emmanuel Thirad

Source: [Emmanuel Thirad, RIBA Collections](#)



Old Montrose Bridge, Angus, 1931.  
Designed by Sir Evan Owen Williams

Source: [RIBA Collections](#)



Eiffel Tower, Paris, 1990.

Designed by Gustave Eiffel

Photographed by Time Benton

Source: [Tim Benton, RIBA Collections](#)

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