10-Minute Maker Challenges

Quick, Fun, Failure-Friendly Projects for K-6 Classrooms

These challenges are designed to spark creativity and problem-solving in just 10 minutes. Perfect for transition times, early finishers, or quick maker sessions. All use simple, classroom-friendly materials.

1. Cardboard Creature

Grade Level: K-6 | **Time:** 45-60 min
Materials: Cardboard, tape, scissors
Challenge: Build a moving creature from only cardboard, tape, and scissors.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/cardboard-creature/

2. Balloon-Powered Car

Grade Level: 2-6 | **Time:** 45-60 min
Materials: Balloon, straws, bottle caps, cardboard
Challenge: Create a car that travels using only balloon power.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/balloon-powered-car/

3. Cup Stack Claw

Grade Level: 2-6 | **Time:** 45-60 min
Materials: Cups, string, craft sticks, rubber bands
Challenge: Design a claw mechanism to stack cups without touching them.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/cup-stack-claw/

4. Marble Maze Master

Grade Level: K-6 | **Time:** 45-60 min
Materials: Cardboard, straws, tape, marble
Challenge: Build a maze that guides a marble from start to finish.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/marble-maze-master/

5. Paper Clip Chain Reaction

Grade Level: K-6 | **Time:** 30-45 min
Materials: Paper clips, craft sticks, dominoes
Challenge: Create a chain reaction using simple materials.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/paper-clip-chain-reaction/

6. Straw Tower Challenge

Grade Level: K-6 | **Time:** 30-45 min
Materials: Straws, tape, paper clips
Challenge: Build the tallest free-standing tower using only straws and tape.
Full Instructions: maker404.com/404-challenges/straw-tower-challenge/

Pro Tips:
• Keep materials simple and accessible
• Emphasize the design process over perfect results
• Celebrate creative solutions and "productive failure"
• Let students iterate and improve their designs

Find more challenges at **maker404.com/404-challenges**