# ***MAKER'S STATION***

***Kids will take various household items and use them to create and build!***

## Simple DIY Maker Space

A Post from Science Demo Guy's wife 😉

**It's been a crazy 2020 so far at our house…along with the rest of the world!** With many students learning at home this fall, it's a great time for parents to create a fun space where kids can design, build, and explore :-). What better way to do this than by putting together a Maker Space?!

This can really be as easy as filling a drawer with different creative materials and letting your kids' imaginations run wild at the kitchen table! For a more structured, educational space, you could add **STEM task cards** with specific design challenges and even organized bins in a specific area of your home. **Click here** to see the Maker Space in my basement 😉

Maker stations can come in so many shapes and sizes. Here's an example of a really simple box of STEM materials that I put together—it's basically a small portable maker space. Super simple and super fun. I used a medium-size clear plastic tote and filled it with a fun assortment of materials.


Below is a list of the materials I put in our box! You might have some of these materials at home but they are almost all readily available at your local Dollar Tree. Improvising with materials on-hand can add an extra layer of creativity and keep you from having to go to the store.

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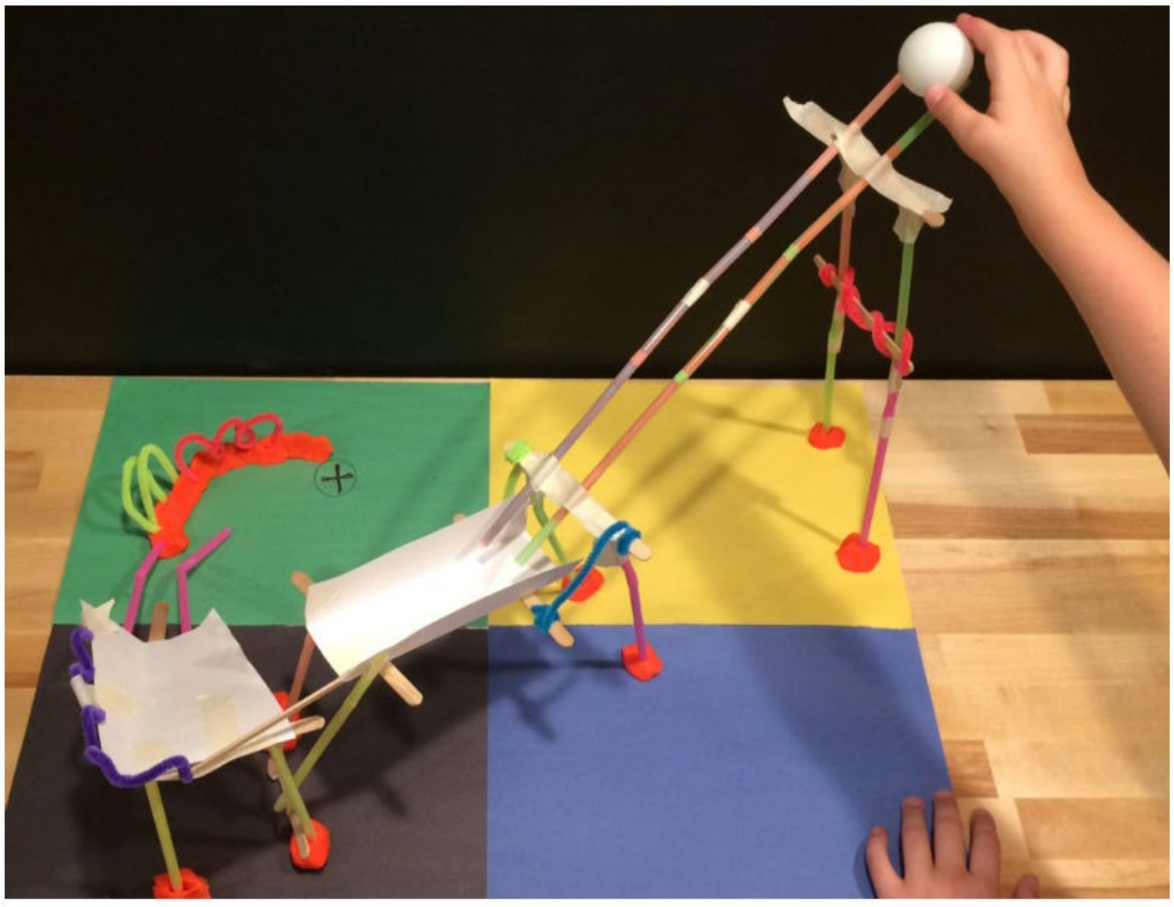
- Straws
- Pipe Cleaners
- Play Dough
- Ping Pong Balls (Table Tennis Balls)
- Marbles
- Army Guys
- Paper Cups (Dixie Size)
- Kitchen Sponges
- Tape (Masking, Duct, Scotch Tape)
- Craft Sticks (Popsicle Sticks)
- Plastic spoons
- Rubber Bands
- Milk Jug Lids
- Paper Clips
- Foil
- Paper (Construction, Card Stock, Printer Paper)
- Card Board (could be cereal or other packaging boxes)
- 50-ish Pennies (for testing)
- Paper Towel Rolls and Toilet Paper Rolls
- Bubble Wrap

**With the materials gathered, it's time to get the creative juices going with some STEM Design inspiration! Try these fun ideas!**



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• Design and create a waterslide!
• Design & create a really fun roller coaster for a ping-pong (table tennis) ball
• Create something that will keep an egg from breaking when dropped from 4 ft. ...or even higher!!
• Build a catapult that will launch a marshmallow. How far can you get it to go?
• Design & create a really fun slide for a marble.
• Make a paper airplane that can carry pennies. See how far you can make it fly and how many pennies it can carry!
• Create a floating raft for "army guys" (or other small toys). Experiment with different materials & designs. See how much cargo (pennies) your raft can hold until it sinks. Can you create a way for the raft to move on its own?

I bet your kids can come up with some fun challenges as well!

**Here's another great resource for at-home STEM projects and Maker Stations!** We've created a set of 6 STEM task cards for each month of the year (plus a few extra) based on seasons and holidays. You can find them by **clicking here!**

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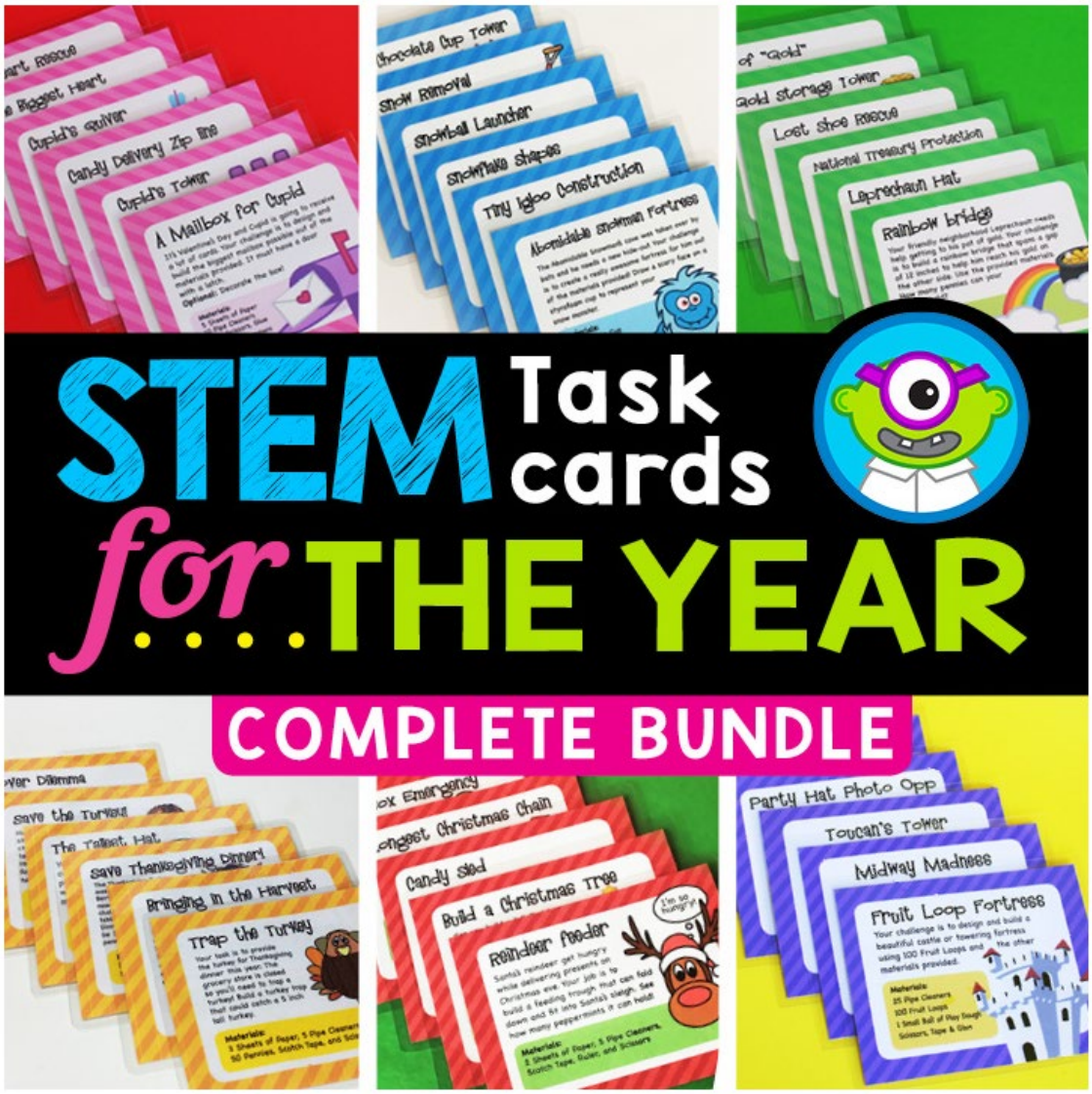


There are a couple of free sets to try :-). Each of the 6 activities in a set uses the SAME MATERIALS! So, if you want to do all of the 6 activities in a set, you only need to purchase one group of materials. You most likely will have a number of the materials at home already, but there are also some fun seasonal items that you can pick up at the dollar store listed as well.

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In the picture above you can see the Saint Patrick's Day STEM Activity task cards along with the materials listed for the 6 design challenges. The materials are pretty simple and straight forward and the task cards can be easily printed OR viewed on screen! I laminated mine because I'm obsessed with laminating...and they'll last longer when encased in plastic!

One of our STEM Task Card sets is even specifically geared toward at-home learning! You can find out more about this resource in another blog post by **clicking here**!

I wish you the best with remote learning, homeschooling, or whatever your adventure with kids is taking you! We're all in this together!

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