

# Can You Build It?



## Materials

- *Boxitects* by Kim Smith
  - From your local library, or find a read-along on YouTube
- Building Materials (Pick one from the list below, or think of your own material)
  - Boxes
  - Pillows and Blankets
  - Foil
  - Spaghetti and glue (or mini-marshmallows)
  - Egg Cartons
  - Cake and Frosting
  - Paper or Plastic Cups (i.e. Dixie or Solo)
  - Gum Wrappers
- Camera (Phone Camera or webcam is fine)

## Learning Objectives

**I can** build a structure out of a building material

**I can** explain the purpose of my structure and identify the different parts that it has (walls, roof, door, etc...)

**I can** draw my structure and take a photograph of it to share with my classmates

## Skills



Problem Solving



Creative Play



Scientific Inquiry

## Exploration

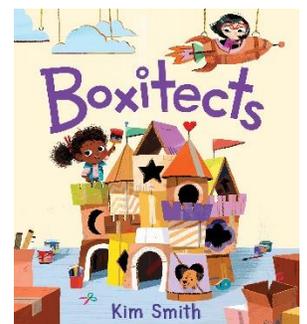
This activity starts by reading or listening to the story *Boxitects* by Kim Smith. Some questions to think about and discuss during and after the story:

- **What kinds of things does Meg build out of boxes?**
- **Have you ever built something out of a box? What was it?**
- **What did Meg and Simone make for the competition at first? What happened to it?**
- **What happened after they agreed to work together?**

Now, it's your turn! Have your learner choose a building material from the list above (which are similar to the options used in the story), OR pick their own unique material. Then, encourage them to design and build a structure out of that material. The only restrictions are that the structure must have a **name** and a **purpose**. For example, in the story, Meg and Simone ended up building a house boat, which was a house that could float on water. The structure can be modeled after something real, or can be completely new and/or made up.

Before, during, and after the building process, you may guide learners with the following questions or prompts:

- **What do you want to build and why?**
- **What can your structure do? What is its purpose?**
- **How are you going to make it sturdy or strong?**
- **Why is <your material> a good material for this structure?**



**Builder's Tip:** It is very unlikely that your learner will find success on their first attempt at building their structure. This is all part of the process! Encourage them to take risks and learn from any mistakes that may happen. They may even need to adjust their plan partway through the build as they play and learn about the material they are using.

When the structure is built, you may help your learner fill out the student page, which allows them to say what their structure is, what it does, and draw a picture of their structure. **Lastly, an adult helper will take a photograph of the structure to send to the student's teacher.** The teacher will collect all the photographs and arrange them into a virtual gallery walk so that learners can observe and provide feedback to the other students about their structures.

# My Structure



My Structure is a \_\_\_\_\_

Its purpose is to \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Here is a drawing of my structure:

