EXTRA PROGRAM IDEAS

Marshmallow Catapult

You will need:

- Family-sized tissue box
- Scissors
- Ballpoint pen
- Pushpin
- 2 rubber bands

- 2 unsharpened pencils
- 30 cm length of pipe cleaner
- Tape
- Plastic cap
- Glue

Instructions:

1. Expand the opening of the tissue box by cutting off the top section (see below). Leave a few centimetres at the short ends.

2. On one of the long sides of the box, use a pushpin to make a hole 4 cm from the short end and 1 cm down from the top of the box. Enlarge the hole with the ballpoint pen. Make a matching hole on the opposite side of the box.

3. In the centre of the far end of the box (not the end your holes are near), poke a third hole with the pushpin 1 cm up from the bottom. Enlarge the hole slightly with the ballpoint pen.

4. Snip one rubber band to create a strip. Use the strip to wrap and tie the pencils into a cross, as shown.

5. Insert the cross into the box holes, as shown below.

6. Fold the pipe cleaner in half, and loop through the other rubber band. Twist the pipe cleaner a few times to secure.

7. Loop the rubber band around the top of the pencil cross and secure by looping it a few times.

8. Pull the pipe cleaner (still attached to the rubber band) through the hole at the end of the box. Test the tension of your catapult by springing the pencil a few times. You might need to adjust the length of your pipe cleaner by pulling it through the hole further.

9. Once you're happy with the tension, spread open the pipe cleaner ends and tape them to the outside of the box.

10. Attach a plastic cap to the long end of the pencil cross with glue and wait for it to set.

11. To use your catapult, pull the capped pencil back, load it with a marshmallow, and let go!

Be safe: do not launch any hard or sharp items, or launch marshmallows at anyone's face.

These instructions were adapted from an article published in the Chicago Tribune.