Construct a pot pyramid for the garden

Subject(s): **Mathematics**

Grade(s): **5–6**

Key Stage: **2**

Learning intention(s):

Construct a 3D pyramid structure to support plants in the garden.

Mapping to curriculum:

Mathematics

- Recognise, name, sort, and make models of 3D objects.
- Describe them using everyday language.
- Make skeleton models of 3D shapes and identify 3D shapes from pictures.
- Make double layered solids, as in pictures, using cubes.
- Begin to identify the cross sections of prisms.
- Visualise 3D from 2D drawings.
- Identify and sketch different nets

Visual Art

- Create 3D objects from a variety of available materials.

Lesson Instructions

Materials required

- 3–4 long bamboo canes or sticks
- heavy twine
- scissors

Source: https://www.17apart.com/2012/03/pinterest-challenge-diy-bean-teepee.html

Instructions:

1. **Get materials**: You need 3–4 long bamboo canes or sticks, heavy twine, and scissors.

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With support from Melbourne Climate Futures, The University of Melbourne

2. **Arrange the canes/sticks**: Place the canes on the ground, parallel and touching each other.

3. **Tie the canes/sticks**: Tie the canes together about 30 cm from one end.

4. **Put in position**: Pick up the canes by the tied end, stand them up in the garden, and spread the untied ends apart to form a pyramid.

5. **Make the structure stable**: Push the ends of the canes deep into the ground, then weave twine between them to make the structure sturdy.

6. **Plant around it**: Sow climbing plant seeds or plant seedlings around the base. Over time, they'll grow up and around the structure.

7. *Optional step*: If you want, you can have students measure the canes and twine to make sure everything is evenly spaced.

This activity teaches students about measurement and construction while creating a structure that supports plants and adds height to the garden.

Photos: Rhonda Di Biase

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