**BC SRC 2020: Explore Our Universe!**

Programs - Ages 9-12, Theme 3: What if...? The future, science fiction, imaginations

Prepared by: Wiena Groenewold, FVRL

Introduction (10 min): Tangram Puzzles

1. Pass out tangram pieces and puzzles templates (freely available on the Intranet)
2. Children fit tangram pieces to complete shapes

Story (10 min): *If I Built A House* by Chris Van Dusen

- Draw attention at end to structures in story (houses, buildings) – what did they look like? How are they like/unlike present structures we see around us

Activity (10 min): Collective Design

- Lay out paper and pencils on tables, one per child. Tell children they will begin to draw a house, and that they will be rotating around and drawing on each other’s papers to build a finished drawing together. After 15 seconds, say ‘move’ and children lay down their pencils and go to another paper to continue drawing that house. Every 15 seconds say ‘move’ so the houses are drawn collectively. At the end of 6 or so rotations, have children find their original paper and see how it has changed from their original idea.

Activity (30 min): Tomorrow’s House

1. Children design and construct houses using toothpicks and marshmallows
   - Discuss design strategy briefly before beginning - plan then build
   - Tip: using stale marshmallows (out of bag 2 days) allows structure to stand up better

In all of the activities, children may work by themselves or with a buddy if they wish.

**BOOKS FOR BUILDING IDEAS**

*From Mud Huts to Skyscrapers* by Christine Paxmann

*The Story of Buildings* by Patrick Dillon

*Built to Last* by David Macaulay

*From Termite Den To – Office Building* by Nelson Yomtov