



Kitchen Kapers

In this activity students will work in teams to create a brand new kitchen utensil using a limited set of materials. They must make a commercial for their device and present it to the rest of the class.

Grade Level	Grades 5 - 12
Activity Time	15 minutes
Preparation Time	10 minutes
Grouping	2 – 3 students per group

Objective

As a result of this activity students will be able to:

- Work on creativity and brainstorming
- Work with limited resources on a very tight deadline

Materials

Per Group:

- Pencil/pen and paper (may be included in invention, or it may be used to draw blueprint of invention or posters/logos for commercial.)
- 2 paper clips
- 4 toothpicks
- 1 drinking straw
- 2-inch strip of clear tape (wrap around straw)
- Business-size envelope to put materials in

Directions

1. Give each group one envelope with the materials inside.
2. Tell the students they have 7 minutes to build one kitchen utensil every household must have, that has not been invented yet. Encourage bizarre, unique, zany ideas.
3. All members must participate. They must use at least 6 items, and can use everything they have if they want.
4. Stop inventors at 7 minutes.
5. Tell them they now have 3 minutes to prepare a 30-second commercial to advertise the product. Come up with catchphrase(s), logos, posters, and music as needed.
6. Have the groups present their commercial to whole class.



Discussion Questions

- What was most challenging about this project?
- What did you have to think about when coming up with your idea for a utensil?

* Adapted from Gibbs, J. TRIBES: A New Way of Learning and Being Together, 2001, CenterSource Systems, LLC, p.290