

Test a structure fairly: which shape is strongest?

engineering

What you need: identical A4 paper sheets (plain copier paper) · masking tape or sticky tape · lightweight books or magazines of similar size · 30 cm ruler · sample paper columns (round, triangle, square) for the hook · Investigation Journal page

Words to use

Fair test · Cross-section · Buckle

Our question

Does the end-shape (round, triangle or square) change how many books a paper column holds before it buckles?

I predict...because...

Sort these words into Change, Measure and Keep the same

the column shape · how many books it holds before it buckles · the paper sheet · the column height · how we stack the books

Change – the ONE thing we change

Measure – the ONE thing we measure

Keep the same – to make it fair

Our results

What we changed	What we measured

What I found out