



Make a Mayan (or Egyptian) Pyramid

(Target Audience: 5-8, 9-12)

This program could run all summer long as the pyramid grows, or could be done as a one or two day event, depending on how much space and time your library has.

Before the program begins, discuss the various types of pyramids found in different countries of the world. Show photos from books, magazines and websites from Mayan, Aztec and Egyptian ruins to start the children thinking of how they would like to build their pyramid. Explain how difficult it would have been to make pyramids in those days. Finally, explain to the group that they will each be a part of the pyramid building team at the library as the construction begins!

Instructions:

1. In the advertising for the program, ask each child to bring in an empty tissue box. The library could also start collecting them early on to have a supply on hand.
2. To make the pyramid, create a base by laying out tissue boxes on the floor in a square shape. Have everyone help tape all boxes together with masking tape or other strong tape as you go. The size of the base and the resulting pyramid will depend on the number of children who attend the program, and/or on the amount of space the library has.
3. Create the next layer of the pyramid on top of the first layer and tape all boxes together.
4. Keep piling and taping the boxes together to form a pyramid shape. If you don't end up having enough boxes, invite the children to come back over the summer to add to it and they can watch it grow.

You could choose to have the children paint and decorate the pyramid either as part of the program if there is time left once it has been built, or they could come back another week in the summer as an additional program.