

Star-nosed Mole

Condylura cristata



Habitat:

-The range is from southeastern Manitoba to Labrador and Nova Scotia, south and east to southeastern Georgia.

-prefers damp to saturated soils, and often lives next to water

-Grassy meadows, marshes, swamps, bogs, lakes and ponds, marshes, rivers and streams, etc
-doesn't hibernate: its tail swollen in size, as a fat storage organ



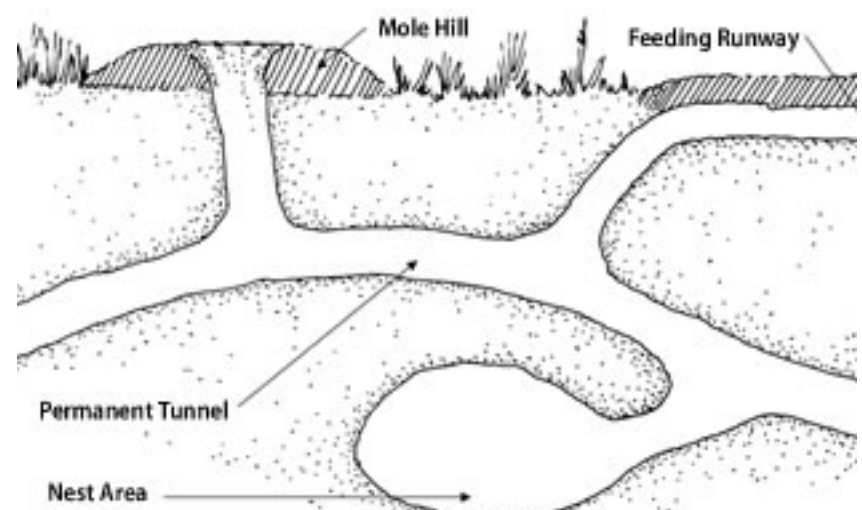
tunnels:

-3-6 cm (1.2-2.4 in) in diameter

-depth of 60 cm (24 in)

-moles near water usually have tunnels that open at, or below, the water surface

-Sometimes a mole will build its nest where a tunnel passes beneath a stump or log



communication:

-monogamous

-one litter of 2-7 between late April and early July, few as late as August

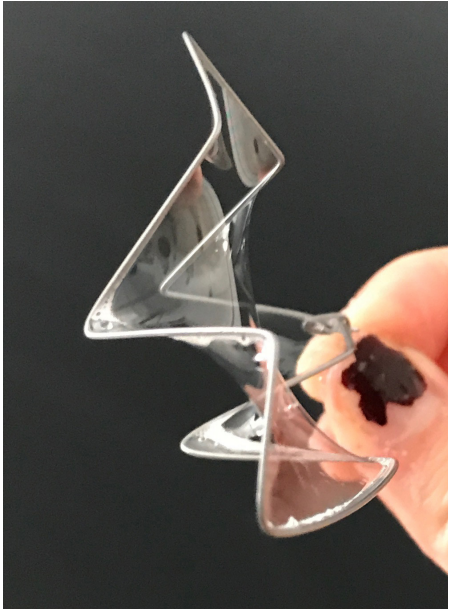
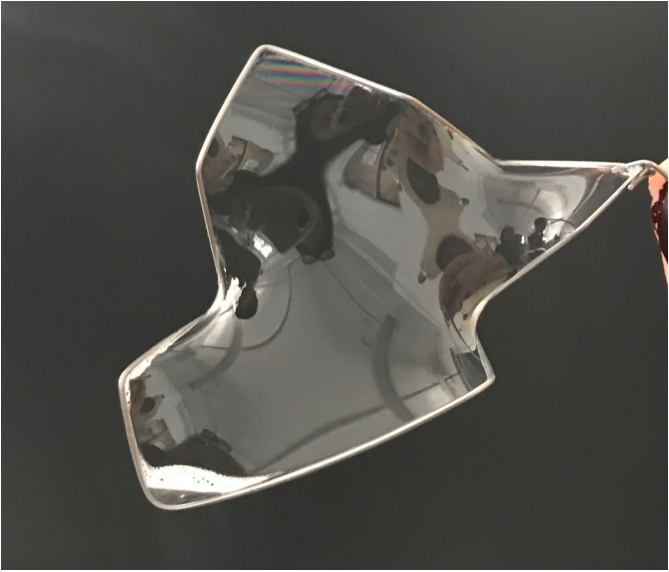
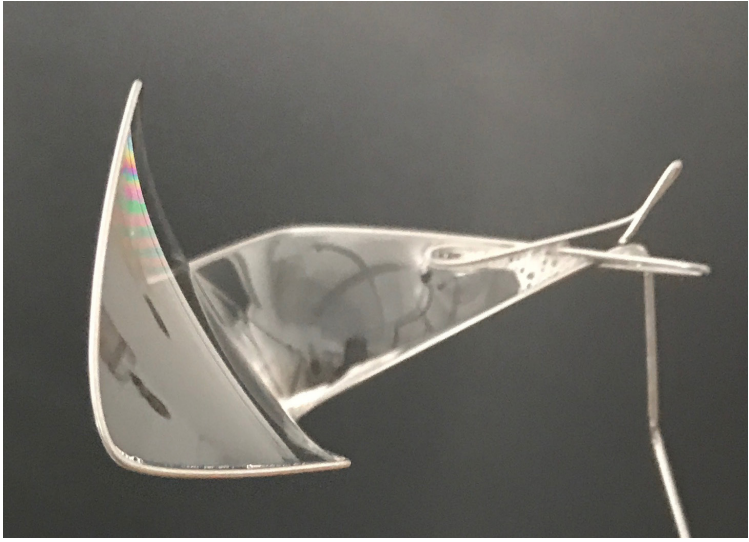
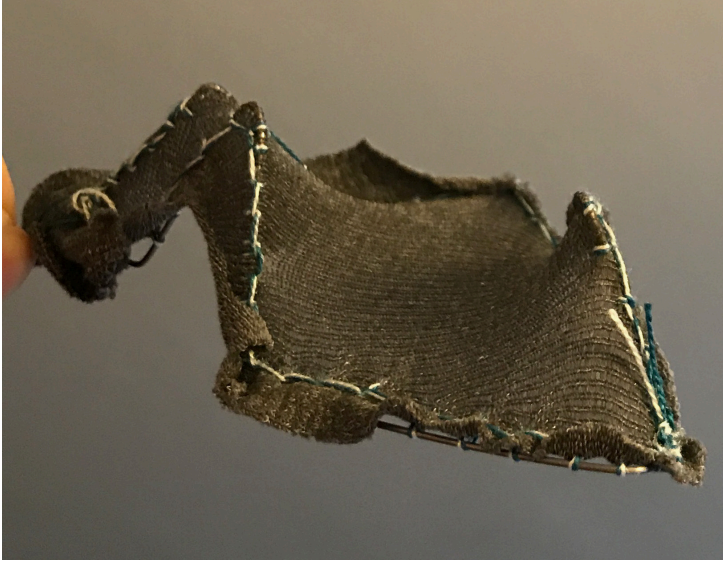
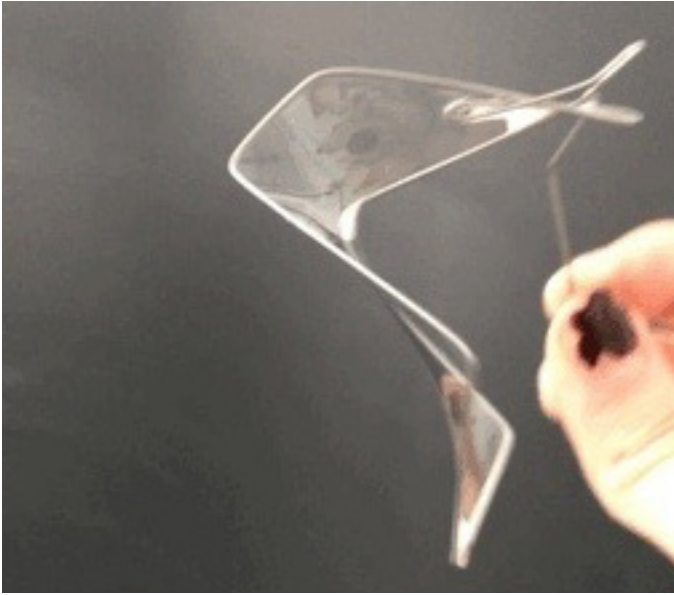
-Tactile and chemical cues



Social System - Mammalogists have taken pairs of star-nosed moles from the same tunnel system before the breeding season suggesting the possibility of monogamy but the mating system and social organization are unknown. Small patches of optimum habitat may contain large populations, while nearby areas of equally suitable terrain may be devoid of this mole, a condition which has led to the notion of it being colonial. Certainly, it may be gregarious and tolerant of conspecifics, e.g., where peak densities of 25-30 or more per ha (10-12 per acre) occur.

Communication - How these mammals interact remains a mystery. Captives produce few vocalizations, but the relatively large external ear openings suggest a role for vocal signals. Vision is poor. Tactile and chemical cues are the most likely means of regulating social encounters. Glands e.g., on the throat, wrist, chin, and abdomen, are most active during the breeding season when their secretions leave a golden stain on the fur. Merriam (p. 152) described the odor of these glands as "exceedingly rank and nauseous!"

Minimal Surface



Social Space and Tests



People usually just sit down and do their own work, and not talk to each other unless they came in a group.

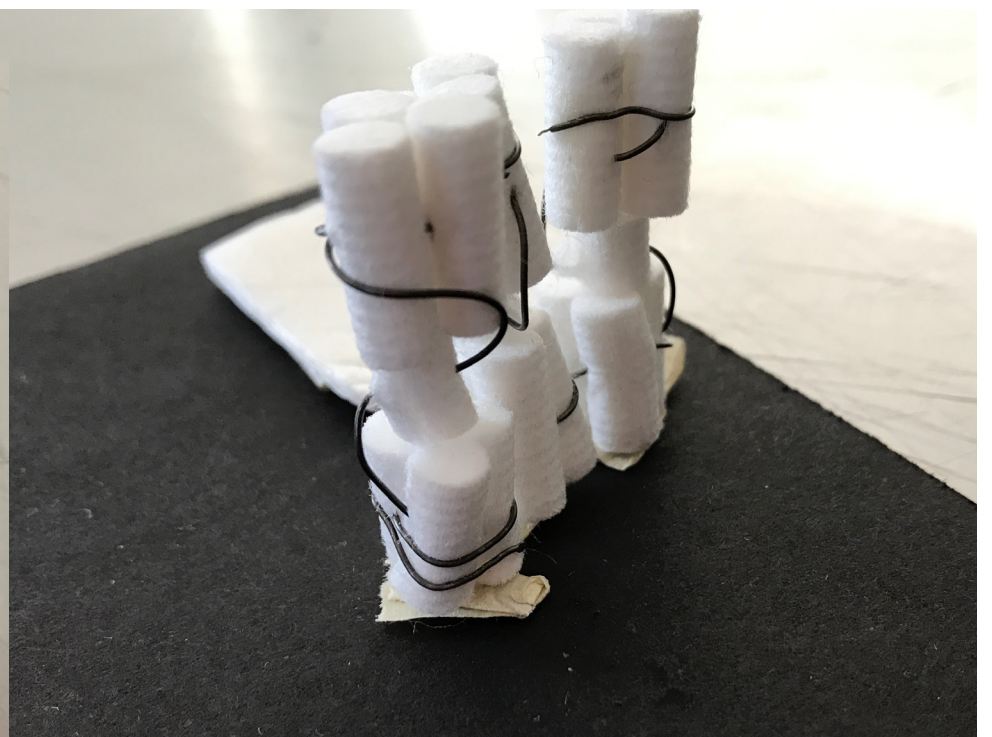
I thought to, with the design, it will make them interact with the object, and maybe it will be something they will talk about.

at first we were thinking of building pillars, with an hourglass shape, with plastic cups. But then we had to think of how to connect them, and make it stable at the same time.

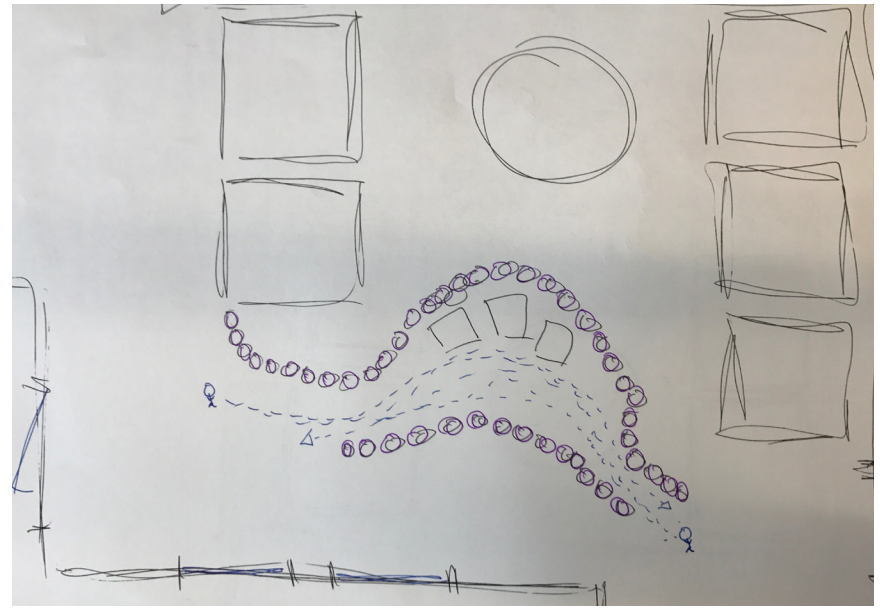
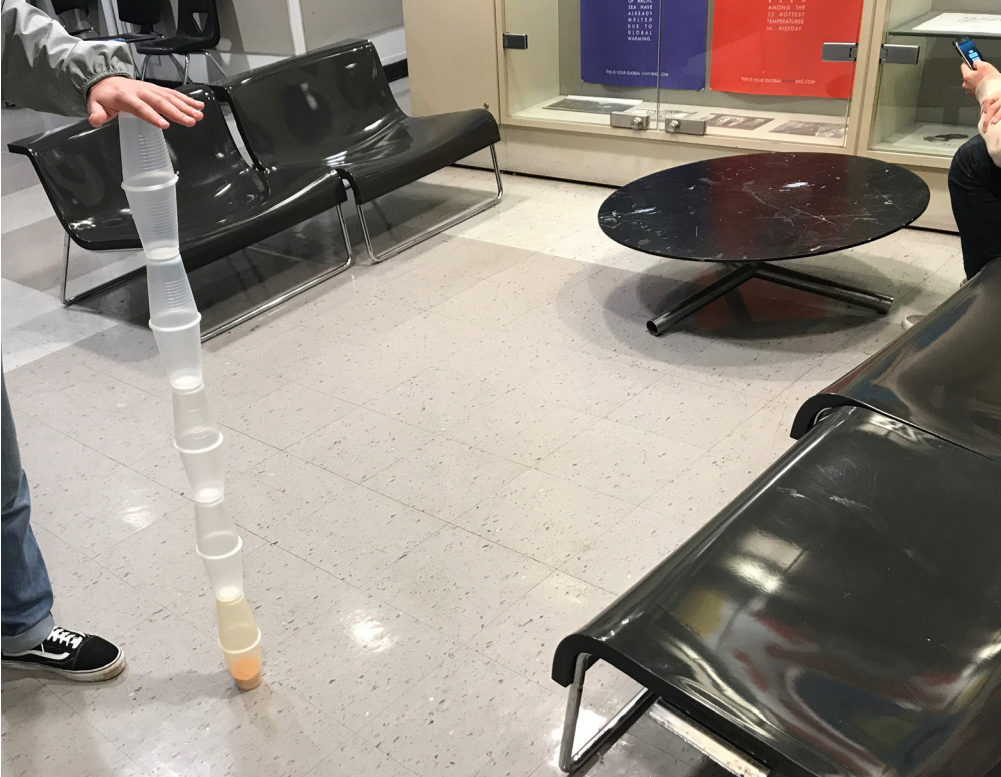
then we thought of making it into a “wall” and once connected, it makes a minimalistic shape

Phenomenological experience:

- forced to walk through the space
- an illusion of being underground
- it will be clear cups, so you can see what's in it too.
- have holes so you can smell the earth.

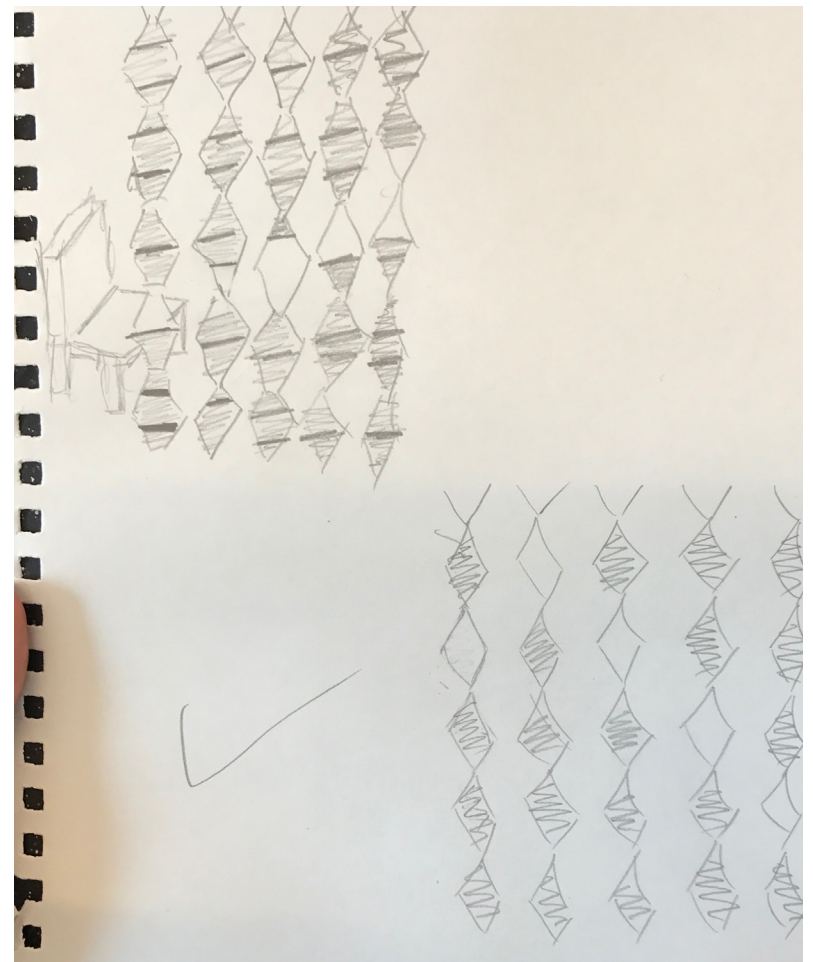


Tests and Process



We went back to the space, and there were many pipes, so we went back to putting it onto the floor. Putting soil, or rocks as a base to make it heavy, so it can stand. We decided to create a path instead of a wall, and put chairs inside, so that it's still social within a social space.

- sketched where to fill the soil
- pattern like a pathway



The space we created can be independent now, it created a social space itself. Instead of putting it on the 11th floor, we moved it into the classroom corner to follow the shape. Putting it between the wall and desks, it will keep the shape, and able to interact with it, by walking through it to get to their seats.





we were thinking of what would be stable and the plastic cup was in front of us

it's recyclable and getting the clear ones, moles are blind, and so we add earth inside to create a similar effect

Put the soil at the bottom, so it won't tip over, and make it more sturdy.

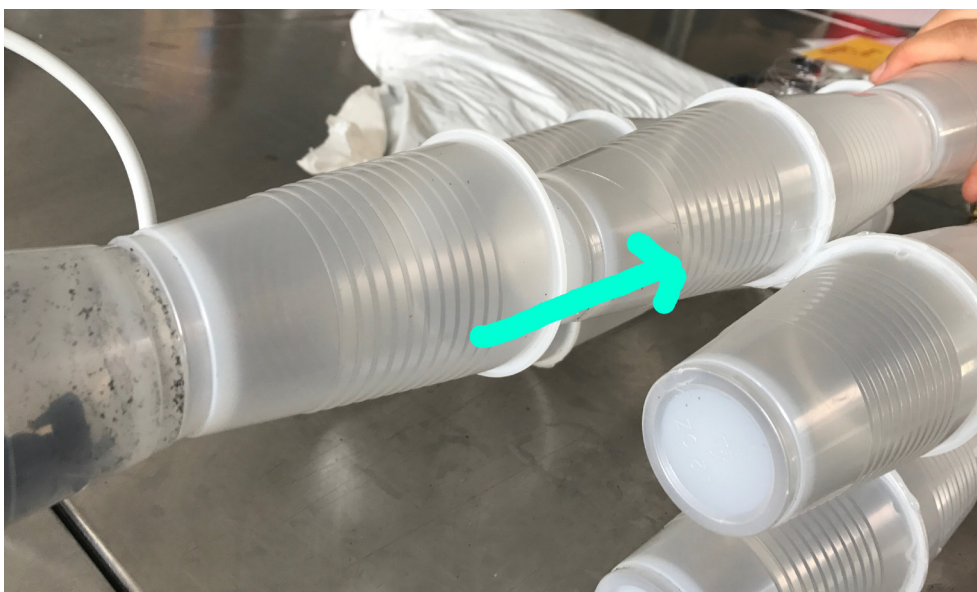
new idea

- arching tunnel
- support itself, leaning against each other
- hallway
- or classroom by the window

-attaching and detaching-->fitting in like a puzzle piece

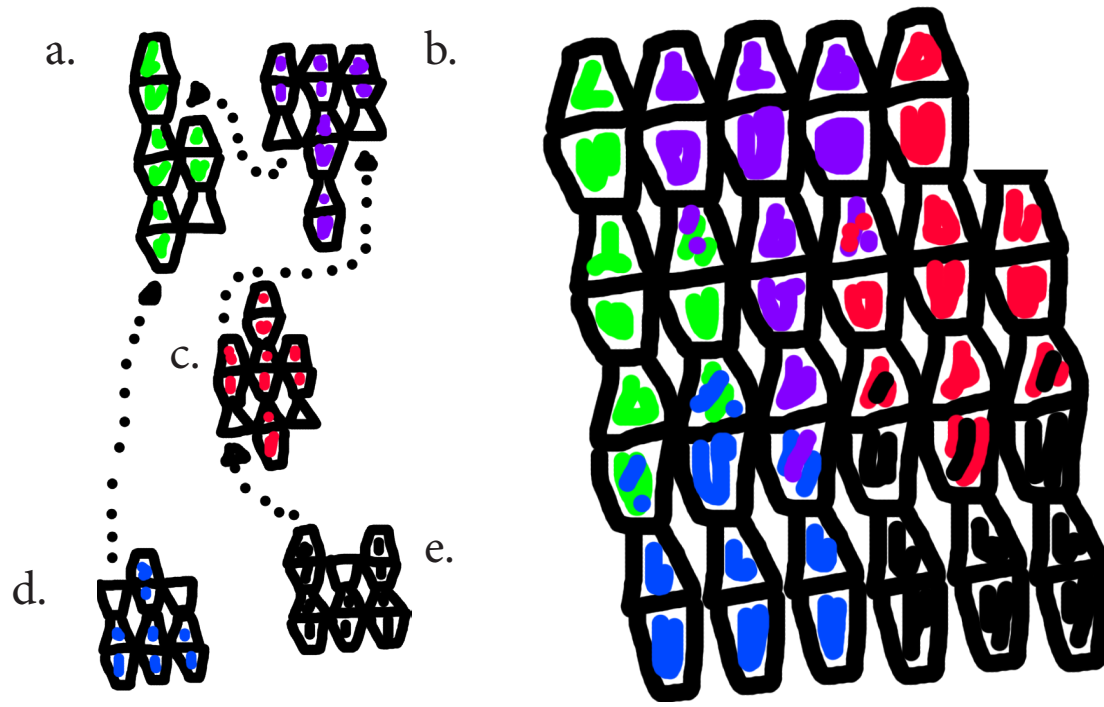
-open cup slip into the bottom of the other cup

-bottom of the arch has more soil for weight, and as you go up, it gets lighter (flowers)





When we tried to bring it up, because of the open cups, it causes it to turn so we decided to use that as an extra support at the bottom



first connection idea but it wasn't stable enough



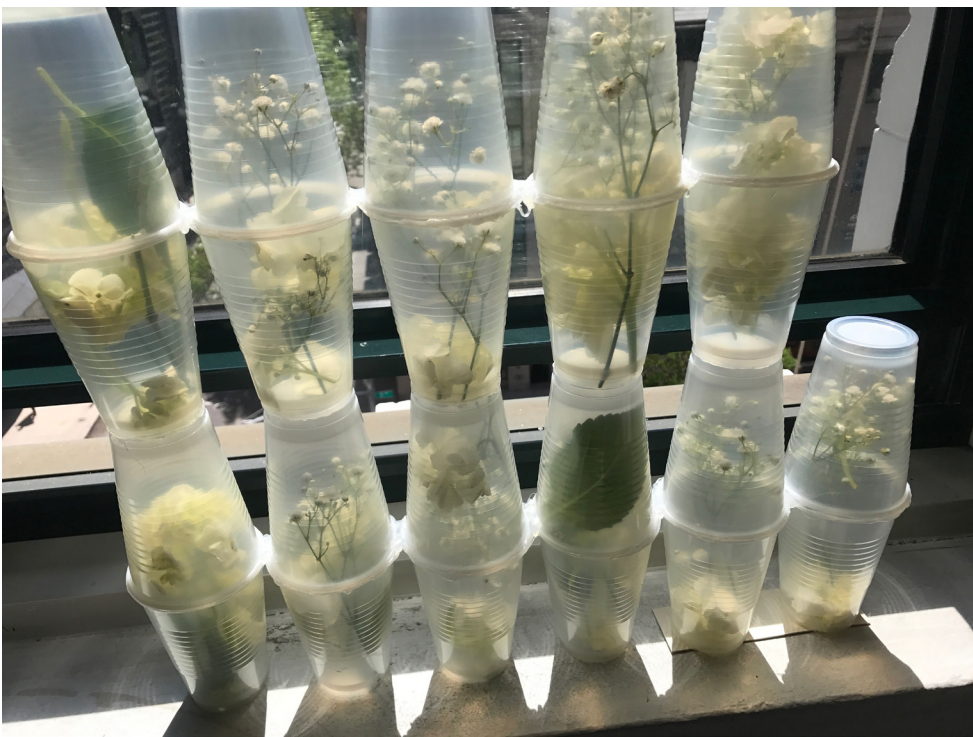
new idea-we changed where the pieces would connect

just in case, if the arch/roof isn't able to support the sides, we added three cups if it's still not stable enough





make the arch all one piece

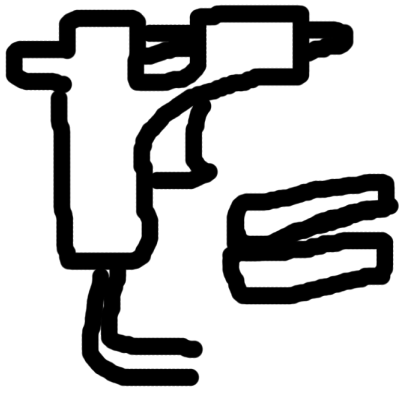


took out two pieces from our bases, because it was unstable

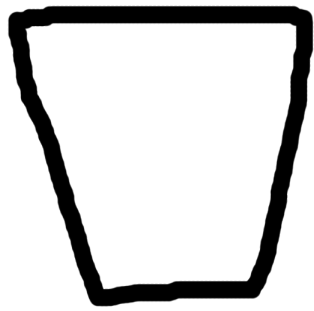


How-To Tunnel

Materials:



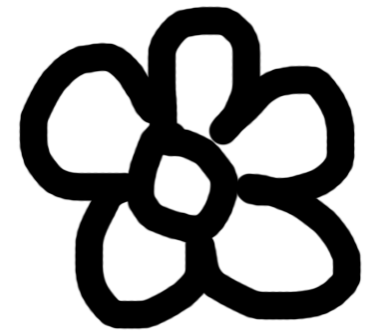
hot glue gun
glue sticks (2-3 bags)



clear plastic cups
(about 200)

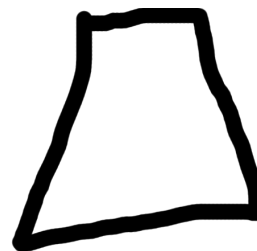


light soil
(4-6 bags)



flowers
4-6 bouquets

filled with soil



empty or half cup

soil:

1.

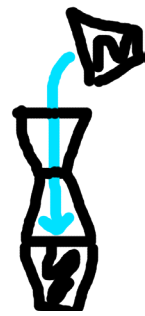


-glue edges of cup together
-take another cup and glue it on top
to seal it

2.

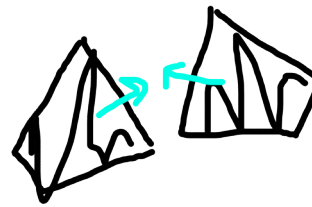


3. act as a funnel



-continue to make it taller
if necessary
-repeat process

-glue on one edge
-carefully line it up
*soil may fall out



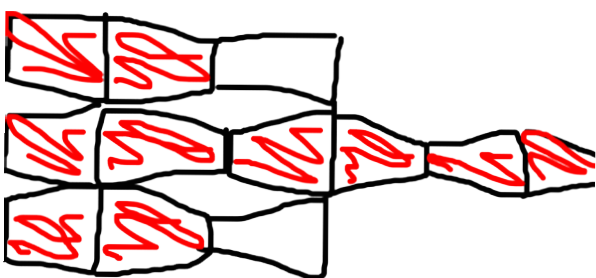
-to connect to other pieces,
glue edges and hold down
until dry

*-re-glue any places
where you might
see holes



a.

bases 2x



total

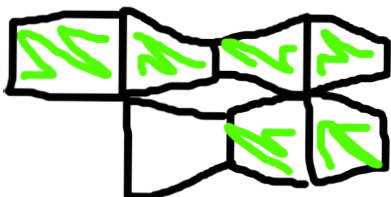
a. 24

b. 14

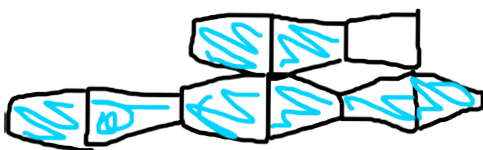
c. 16

d. 22

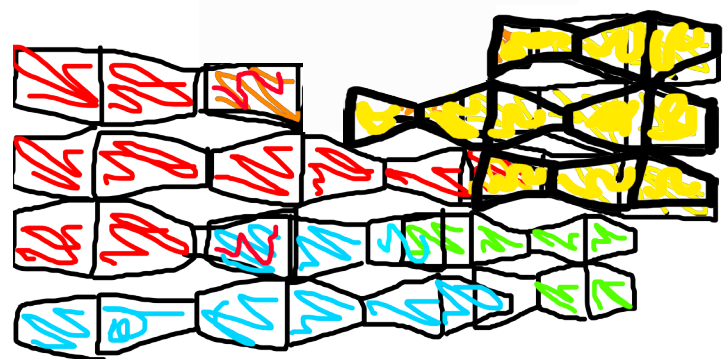
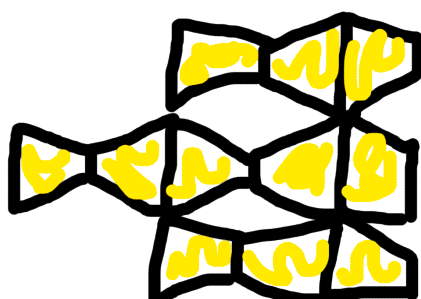
b.



c.



d.



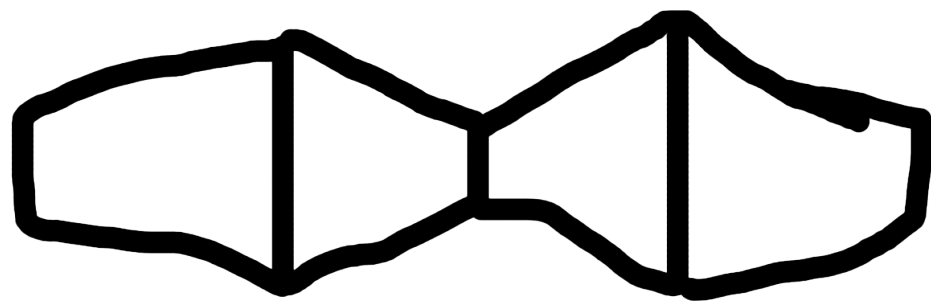
turn a. so that b and c
are flat on the ground

roof/arch

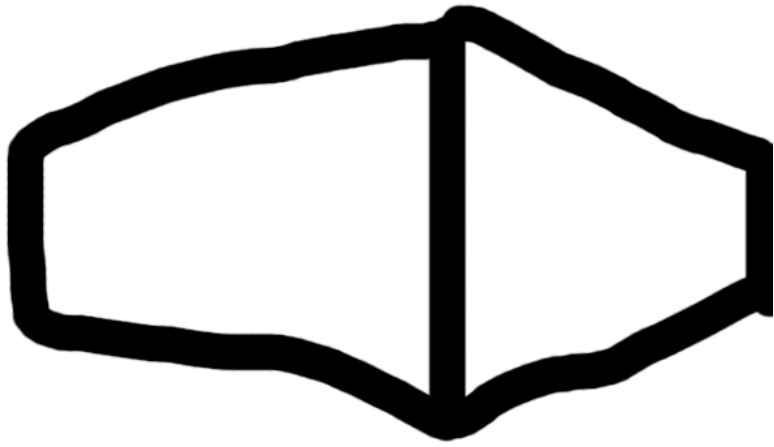
all one piece

27

-filled with flowers however
you want to arrange it



2



Afterlife

Pouring it outside, or in a garden
or plant something indoors



decor

