

EIFFEL TOWER In Paris, France.



There is almost always a queue to go up the Eiffel Tower. When you get to the front of the queue, you'll still have to climb 1,665 steps to get to the top. Luckily, there are also lifts! Visitors can walk up the first two levels and take a lift to the third and final level.

From the top, there's a 360-degree view of Paris. It's particularly beautiful at night.

The Eiffel Tower is 1,063 feet tall. It was the tallest structure in the world until the Chrysler Building was built in New York in 1930.

The tower isn't always the same height, though. During cold weather, the tower shrinks and is six inches shorter!

When it's windy, the tower sways around two to three inches in the wind.

There are 18,038 metal parts in the tower and 7,300 tons of iron. There's so much iron that the tower's nickname is the Iron Lady!

The tower is repainted every seven years. This takes 15 months and 60 tons of paint! It also takes 25 painters who paint the tower with paintbrushes. Yes, it's all done by hand! The tower hasn't always been the same colour, though. It used to be a red-brown colour but today it's bronze.

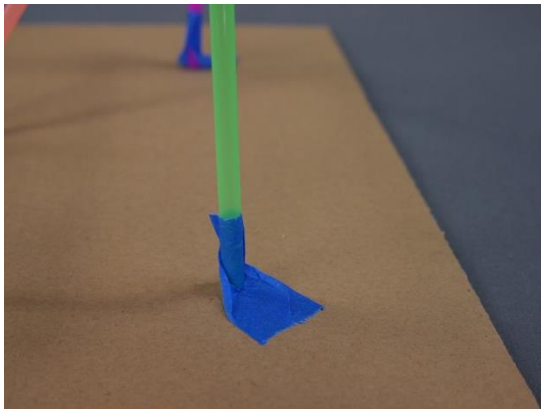
72 engineers, scientists and mathematicians worked on the tower. All of their names are engraved on the side.

Each night, 20,000 lightbulbs light up the tower. Sometimes there are special light shows, too, such as on New Year's Eve 2000.

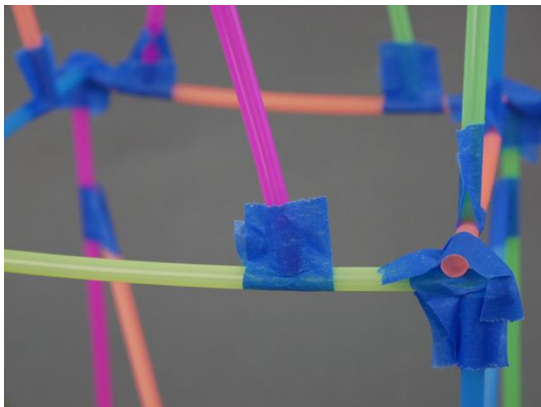
If guests get hungry or thirsty while visiting the tower, they can try one of the tower's restaurants or bars, and enjoy beautiful views of the city as they eat and drink.

When the building of the tower began, not everyone in Paris was happy about it. They didn't all love the idea of the huge, modern metal structure. Today, however, the tower is the symbol not only of Paris but also of France.

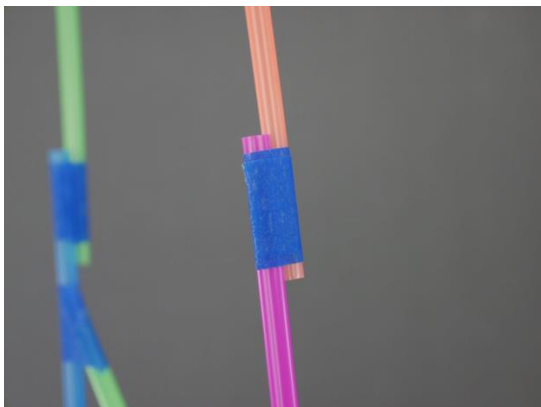
Can you build a replica of the Eiffel Tower using art straws and tape?



Uprights: Tape the straw to the cardboard so half the tape is pressed flat against the cardboard and the other half is pinched around the straw.



Wraparounds: When connecting two straws together, wrap the tape completely around one of the straws and stick the tape to itself.



Overlap and wrap: To make a long beam, overlap two straws by about 2cm. Then tightly wrap a piece of tape around the overlapped area.