

Careers in Manufacturing: Snack Bag Assembly Line

Educational Objective: Students will learn the importance of connecting time with quality control and experiment with process improvement.

You will need:

- Snack bags
- Sandwich bags
- Small cookies
- Sprinkles
- Frosting
- Cheez-Its
- M&Ms
- Sour Patch Kids
- Paper, markers, and scissors
- Plastic knife for frosting cookies
- Small cups to separate ingredients



In this activity, students will create an assembly line to learn about the manufacturing process.

1. Create teams of approximately 4-5 students per group and explain that their task is to create an assembly line to package as many completed snack bags as possible in two minutes.
2. One sandwich bag will contain a snack bag with 10 M&M's and 4 Sour Patch kids, a second snack bag with 2 cookie sandwiches (two cookies, frosted, sprinkled, and put together), and a third snack bag with 8 Cheez-Its. Finally, a heart shaped note saying, "Have a great day!" placed in the sandwich bag before the bag is sealed.
3. Groups will have to work cooperatively to achieve the best results. They may choose to have each member "specialize" in a portion of the production process. Alternatively, each member of the group could create a completed sandwich bag from start to finish.
4. Ask teams to brainstorm ways to improve their process. Repeat the experiment, but with only one minute.
5. Discuss the steps the students implemented to improve their processes.

