

STORIES FOR KIDS:

Presenter: The Lingokids friends have worked up a sweat on a play structure.

Lisa: Time out, I'm thirsty! I'm going to the water fountain!

Cowy: I have a juice box!

Elliot: I brought my water bottle!

Billy: (chirps)

Presenter: Billy doesn't have a way to drink water. Maybe our Linkgokids Friends can use their STEM skills to solve the problem! Welcome to Stories for kids by Lingokids - where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of Playlearning. Lingokids Listeners, do you want to help Billy quench his thirst?

Lingokids Friends: Yeah!

Presenter: Lingokids Listeners, we'll be using gumdrops and toothpicks to create a fun engineering design! Feel free to build with us and send us the photo of what you came up with! You can find our email address in the description to this episode. Remember, it's important to get an adult's help when using pointy objects. And if you don't have gumdrops, you can use marshmallows, cheese cubes, or styrofoam peanuts.

Lisa: Billy, we can **make** you a water station.

Cowy: So you can stay and play!

Billy: happy chirp

Presenter: Great idea! It's a perfect occasion to use your STEM skills to solve this problem! Remember STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. Everywhere you look, there are man-made objects designed to make life better; things like juice boxes, water bottles, and play structures!

Elliot: Does **man**-made mean only men make these things?

Presenter: (*laughing*) Oh no, **man**-made isn't quite right, is it Elliot? We know women are scientists, engineers and mathematicians too!

Lisa: Girl-power!

Cowy: Yeah!

Presenter: However, it wasn't always like this. In the old days, only men were hired for most STEM jobs. Some believed women weren't smart enough.

Lisa: But girls are just as smart as boys!

Elliot: Everyone can be whatever they want to be!

Presenter: I totally agree, and now it's different. More and more girls not only **can** choose, but are encouraged to study science, technology, engineering or math.

Lisa: Well, we're ALL ready for a STEM challenge today, right?

Lingokids friends: Right!!!

Presenter: Great! I brought some fun supplies: 12 toothpicks, 12 gumdrops...

Elliot: Gumdrops, yum!

Presenter: Not to eat, Elliot.

Elliot: Oh.

Presenter: ...and a pair of scissors. I'll be in charge of those.

Elliot: Do we need a calculator?

Presenter: We can use our brains for any calculations! You know, engineers used to do math on paper. In fact, behind many big engineering projects were women - yes women - hired as human computers - to solve big math problems without calculators so bridges, buildings, rockets, and more could be built!

Lisa: If they could do it...

Elliot: We can do it!

Presenter: Billy, where should your water station go?

Billy: (chirping away)

Presenter: Good idea, Billy. Putting it in the shade will keep the water cool.

Presenter: Sounds like you're ready to begin.

Lisa: Maybe we should each draw an idea first.

Cow: Then we can put our ideas together.

Presenter: That's called COL-LAB-OR-A-TION - working together for the same goal! It's an important part of STEM work.

Elliot: Col-lab-or-a-tion!

Elliot: Okay. Let's draw!

Lisa: Ready!

Cowy: Ready!

Billy: (chirps "ready")

Elliot: Allllllmost done. Okay, I think I'm done.

Presenter: Great, now, the next step is to discuss each design and come up with a final version. Remember, the water station needs to stand on its own, under the tree.

Lingokids friends: Got it!

Cowy: Ta-da!

Elliot: Our design is ready!

Lisa: Let the building begin!

Billy: (chirping excitedly)

Presenter: Wow,that was fast!

Cowy: That wasn't so hard!

Elliot: And we didn't need a calculator!

Lisa: Let's test it - put it under that tree!

Presenter: It stands up nicely! Uh...we have just one problem.

Elliot: What's that?

Billy: (chirps - water)

Presenter: Water! How does it hold water?

Cowy: I have an idea! We can use my juice box! If we cut the box in half, it fits just right!

Presenter: Great problem solving Cowy!

Presenter: I'll do the cutting.

Presenter: There. Now we'll place it in the stand.

Elliot: I can pour some water from my bottle.

Billy: (chirping excitedly)

Presenter: Billy, give it a try!

Billy: (chirps approval)

Lingokids friends: Hooray!

Cowy: I want to do MORE STEM challenges!

Lisa: So do I!

Presenter: You totally can! You can join the STEMettes!

Cowy: What's that?

Presenter: It's a **real** club for girls around the world who are interested in STEM. It was started by Dr. Anne-Marie Imafidon, a math and computer science genius!

Elliot: Hey, STEMettes, want to do some calculations?

Lisa: Sure!

Elliot: We used 8 of the 12 gumdrops. So, how many gumdrops are left?

Cowy: 4!!

Lisa: Sweet!

Presenter: Wow, you solved Billy's thirst problem and built in a gumdrop treat for each of you!

Lingokids friends: Woohoo!

OUTRO:

Narrator: Lingokids Listeners, we had a great time today using simple materials to build like engineers! We learned a little about the STEM design process: create ideas, collaborate, build test, and even do some calculations! Lingokids Listeners, can you build something with gumdrops and toothpicks? You can ask a grown up to help take some pictures and send them to us so we can share on our social media!

If you are ready for interactive playlearning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages 2 and older learn and develop important skills, such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of Playlearning™. ~~See you in our next episode~~

~~Kids at home, are you ready for our second round of **Special** episodes of Stories for kids?!
Next time you will hear a story about Cowy and her virtual friend. Will Cowy fall for this
friendship? Will her real friends accept Cowy's new bestie?
Think about it and tune in next time to find out.~~