

I'm afraid they mean plastic straws but please don't buy any, just thought you may have an old one at the back of a kitchen draw.

STRONG AS A DRINKING STRAW

ENGINEERING CHALLENGE 04

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The brief

Use a drinking straw to pierce through a raw potato.

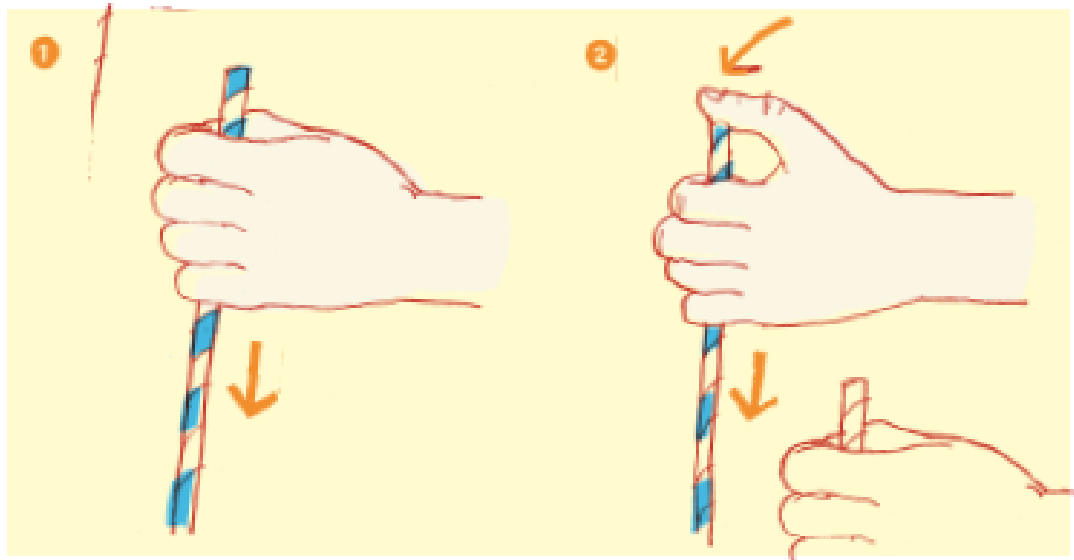
Materials

Two stiff drinking straws

A firm, raw potato

The method

1. Hold the straw by its sides, without covering the hole at the top and try quickly stabbing the potato.
2. Repeat the experiment with a new straw but this time place your thumb over the top, covering the hole.



How does it work?

Covering the top of the straw with your thumb traps air inside, forcing it to compress as you stab the straw through the potato skin. This creates enough rigidity within the straw to pierce the potato.

