Build a Geodesic Dome

Who would ever believe that the Sunday paper and a stapler would be all you need to create a life-size structure big enough to hold a bevy of children? Black and white and fun all over, our dome is, at turns, a fort, a gingerbread house, a cave, and a camping tent. And after the fun, it is easily turned back into plain old recyclable newspaper.

MATERIALS

- 100 sheets of newspaper (choose a paper with large-size pages — tabloid size is too small — and use the full square spread)
- Pencil
- Masking tape
- Yardstick
- Stapler
- Glue stick (optional)
- Colored tissue paper (optional)
You'll need four sheets to make each newspaper log.

1. Spread the sheets open flat, one on top of the other. Set the pencil in the corner and roll across the diagonal (see step 1, below). Use the pencil as a general guide to help you roll evenly; don't try to roll the newspaper as thin as the pencil! When you get to the other end of the paper, you'll have a tube. Slip the pencil out and tape the tube shut.

2. Repeat this process until you have 25 tubes. Then trim the ends, using a yard-stick to make sure all the tubes are the same length. Ours were each about 30 inches long.

3. At this point, you'll need a big, open space to construct the dome in. Staple three tubes together to create a triangle. Repeat the process until you've constructed five triangles like the one shown in step 2.

4. Staple the five triangles to each other at their bottom corners. Add five connecting tubes across the top (see step 3). Then raise the triangles, or walls, off the floor and staple the ends together to form a pentagonal structure. It helps to have a few kids hold up the walls while you staple.

5. Take the remaining five tubes and staple their ends together at the center to make a star (see step 4). Staple the free ends of the star to the junctions of the triangles on the tops of the walls, and the structure will stand by itself.

6. Now, if you want to get fancy, smear glue onto the roof tubes and gently press pieces of colored tissue paper onto the roof triangles. You can rip or cut the edges off, and voila, an easy-to-do stained-glass effect for the roof?