

# WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

## PUTTING GREEN

Ages 5-12

Once you have practiced using your putting green (and maybe even made a Hole in One!), it's time to make this game a little more challenging.

Have you ever gone mini-golfing? While you only have to hit your golf ball a short distance every round, you also have to navigate around and through all kinds of obstacles. It can be tricky, but it's always entertaining!

### From Putting Green to Mini-Golf Extraordinaire

Today, you're going to incorporate the challenge of mini-golfing into your putting green! Follow the directions below to get started.

Your goal is to make it more difficult (but not impossible!) to roll golf balls into your putting green hole. To accomplish this, you will use the materials above to create a maze through which the ball must navigate before it can go up the putting green's ramp and into the hole.

Take a look at your materials, and think about how you could use them to create a maze. Could the wooden blocks make strong walls? Could the wedges be used to make a sharp corner? What additional challenge could the pine shims add? It may be helpful to experiment with the materials to see how they could be used best. Once you have an idea, sketch a picture of what your maze could look like from a bird's eye view.

**Challenge!** Try to make your maze as tricky as possible! Forks in the road and dead-ends all contribute to a maze's difficulty.

### You'll need...

- Your Putting Green Set
- Pine shims
- Wooden blocks
- Wedges
- Wood glue
- Washable kids paint
- Paint brush



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## Construction Time

Now it's time to begin building! Gather all of the materials that you decided you'll need from the list above. Then use your sketch as your guide and begin putting everything together. If something in your plan doesn't seem to work now that you're actually building it, don't be afraid to make changes!

**Tip:** Try not to use any glue yet...This will make it much easier to try different versions of your design before it becomes final!

When you are happy with the layout of your maze, roll your golf ball through it once to make sure the passages are the right size. Then move on to the section below.

### Add Character

If you've been mini-golfing before, you know that most courses have a theme! In other words, the entire park is decorated around one central idea. Some mini-golf parks, for example, have a Treasure Island theme, while others take you back to the Wild West or even further back to the time of the dinosaurs!

Pick your favorite idea and use the paint to bring this theme to life! If you think of other household materials that you could use to make your theme even more life-like, add these details too.

You now have a whole new putting green experience! Grab a friend or family member and encourage them to give your maze a try. See how long it takes them to guide the golf ball into the putting green's hole!

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## Looking for an additional challenge?

Experiment with different surfaces for the maze's floor and the putting green's ramp. For example: How does the golf ball move as it glides over aluminum foil? What about felt? You may choose to coat the entire bottom of your maze with one material, or you could decide to use different materials in different sections. It may be best to first decide whether you want to make your maze easier or more difficult and then experiment with different materials to see which one accomplishes your goal. Once you've arrived at a decision, cut out the materials and place them along the inside of your maze like a carpet!

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