After reading *Unstoppable* by Art Coulson, create a tricky maze to get the ball to the end zone.

**Age:** 7-12  
**Duration:** 40-60 minutes

**Materials:**

**Included in Kit**

-  

**Gather:**

- 5”x 5” scratch paper to design your maze  
- 5”x 5” cardboard squares  
- 6 paper straws  
- White glue  
- Small sphere (a Mardi Gras bead works well, cut the string off flush with the bead)  
- Scissors  
- Pencil with eraser  
- Color pencils  
- Cardstock for decorations

**Watch the video Here:** [https://vimeo.com/513451194](https://vimeo.com/513451194)
The book *Unstoppable* describes how Jim Thorpe not only was an amazing athlete, but helped his team achieve victory with creative and tricky football plays.

We are going to make a tricky maze to get a ball into the end zone. A **maze** is a network of paths, some of which trick you into going the wrong way.

Mazes can be made with straight or curved lines, but since we are using straws it will work best to use straight lines and **90 degree angles**.

![90°](image)

Mazes that you can walk through, also called labyrinths, are sometimes made from carefully trimmed hedges.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning Opportunities</th>
<th>Louisiana Standards</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Puzzle Design – STEAM Skill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fine Motor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Strategy &amp; Pre-Planning</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Instructions

1. On the scratch piece of paper use your color pencil to draw a line all around the perimeter, boundary or edge, of your maze and write where you want the start and finish points for your maze.

2. Use your pencil with eraser to draw the tricky path your ball will follow. Straight lines and right angles work best.

3. Draw a few branching “wrong way” paths as well to confuse someone trying your maze.

4. Next use your color pencil to create the walls of the maze around your paths. This will be where you will put your straws when you create the maze on the cardboard.

5. Now construct your maze on the cardboard. Redraw only the color pencil walls on your cardboard.

6. Cut your straws to match the lengths of each straight line and glue them on top of the color pencil marks.

7. Before the glue dries, be sure your ball can easily fit between the straws, you may need to adjust the straw positions to be sure the ball can fit through paths of the maze.

8. After letting the glue dry completely, you can draw additional decorations with a football or other theme on cardstock and glue them to the walls of the maze.

9. Now, holding the maze in your hands, place the ball at the starting point. Without touching the ball, tilt the maze to follow the paths until you reach the finish.

How Was It?

Thank you for taking part in this activity! We would love to hear about your experience. Take our feedback survey here: [http://bit.ly/3alQBOW](http://bit.ly/3alQBOW)