



A FLOAT / SINK ACTIVITY

Build-A-Boat STEAM Kit

Some boats are used for carrying people, or goods. Some boats are made for fishing or racing. But no matter what the boat is used for, every boat is designed to do one important thing...FLOAT! As a boat designer, your goal is to build a boat that floats.

As every designer knows, ideas don't always work the first time. If you make a boat and test it in the water... and it SINKS! Try again. Make changes. Use different materials or try a different shape until your boat floats.



To make THIS boat, start by attaching the corks to the front, back, and sides of the foam with rubber bands. Poke the pointed skewer in the middle of the foam for the mast. Tie the string to the top of the mast and fasten to the bow and stern. Add a bit of glue to the top of the mast for extra tension. Tear or cut small flags to tie on the backstay string for added color.

Front of a boat = **Bow**
Back of a boat = **Stern**

Left side = **Port**
Right side = **Starboard**

This is ONE way to make a boat but this kit has more materials. Try a different way too! There are lots of ways to make a boat float. Can you make one that can move with wind power? Can you experiment with two boats to compare speed or ability to carry a heavy load?

Scan this QR code for a Sink or Float experiment guide from PBS Kids.

