



Campbell Creek Science Center

Build-a-Boat Challenge

Construct boats using only natural items and test them out in water.

Directions

1. Go outside and fill your large container with water for a boat testing lab.
2. Look around and collect natural items to build different boats. Think about what boats look like and what different boats do. How will you design your boats? Things to consider:
 - What makes a boat float?
 - What keeps boats stable so they do not tip over?
 - How do boats move straight in the water?
3. As you construct your boats test them out in the water. Make adjustments to your designs to improve your boats. Try to make boats that:
 - Go really fast
 - Always go straight
 - Move by wind
 - Carry heavy items
 - Are really big
 - Are really small



Materials

- Large container (big bowl, cooler, tote, or kiddie pool)
- Water
- Collected natural materials

Questions

- What items did you find that worked best for your boat construction?
- What features of the design were important for different functions?

4. Host a boat race, sometimes called a **regatta**. Choose different categories, such as fastest boat or boat that can carry the most weight. **If possible, head to a nearby creek or other natural body of water to host your regatta.** Invite friends and family members to bring their own boats! Remember to Leave No Trace: Use natural materials and collect your boat after the race.



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