PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Use recycled materials to design sea-worthy boats! Inspired by San Francisco’s history as a prominent working port and the current reenvisioning of its southern waterfront. Make this a family project so you can have a whole fleet of vessels to race!

RECOMMENDED AGE/SKILL LEVEL:

Recommended for 5+ with adult supervision for hot glue use.

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- Scissors
- Glue (hot glue if available)
- Strong tape
- Large water tub, bathtub, or other receptacle
- Pencil and sketch paper
- Cardboard
- Paper or index cards
- Walnut shells or other natural cups
- Sponges
- Corks
- Rubber bands
- Plastic wrap or aluminum foil
- Small recycled cartons or plastic containers
- Straws, chopsticks, or dowels
- Fabric
- Popsicle sticks
INSTRUCTIONS

• Gather materials for the base or hull of the boat.
  ° What materials are most buoyant?
  ° What shapes of containers will be most stable on the water?
  ° What materials help make it water resistant or waterproof?

• Fill your tub, sink or wading pool half-way up with water and test the buoyancy of the materials you chose.
  NOTE: You might need to water-proof before testing. For example, we wrapped the red cardboard box with plastic wrap and held it on with a large rubber band.

• Use hot glue, rubber bands or wire to add extra flotation elements as needed.
  TIP: Two empty bottles (with lids) can turn your surface or container into a pontoon boat!

• Test the stability and buoyancy of your boat by putting it back in the water and placing a sturdy object on/in it.
Sail

- Create a sail from paper or fabric. We used colorful index cards with magazine images glued on.
  
  *TIP*: Triangular or rectangular shapes are often used in sails - look up visual resources for more ideas.

- Tape or glue your sail onto a popsicle stick, pencil, dowel, or straw.
- Use a large amount of hot glue to fix your sail in place.
  
  *TIP*: Use a pipe cleaner or some modeling clay to create a base that is easier to glue.

- Now you are ready for your own @Home regatta!
  - Splash around! How does your boat handle stormy seas?
  - Every boat needs a name! Choose something personal, or use this handy boat name generator.
  - Is your boat a ship, a yacht, a dingy, or a raft?
Museum of Craft and Design

JUNK BOATS

Keep it simple with a classic origami boat.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CONNECT SOCIALLY AND LEARN MORE

Facebook & Instagram: @MuseumofCraftandDesign
Twitter @SF_MCD

Share your project! Post and tag #MCDatHome