

Activity 6: Rescue Boats

Materials:

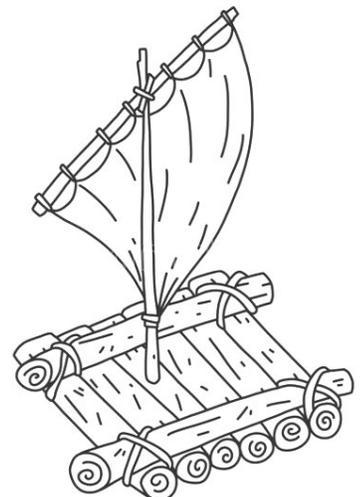
Sink, bath, or bin filled part way with water
Writing paper
Tin foil
Wax paper
Magazine paper or newspaper
Scotch tape

Pretend Boat Scenario

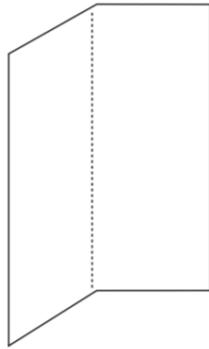
You have just gone for a day of boating, when a strong wind blows you off course, beaching your craft bow first into sharp rocks. You crawl onto the sand and notice to your dismay that your boat is in pieces. You do all the right things like lighting a signal fire and preparing a place to camp. Days pass with no sign of help. Your only chance to be saved is to get a message to someone who can help. On your survey of the island, you notice a current out to sea. You plan to place a message in a miniature boat and drift it out for help. Amongst the debris scattered about the island are pieces of magazine or newspaper, writing paper, wax paper, and tin foil. You fold the materials into five separate boats using tree sap to seal the edges. A message for help is placed in each boat and sent adrift. Two days later you see two sea vessels approaching the island. YOU ARE SAVED! After giving your thanks, you find out which two of the five boats delivered the messages.

Procedure

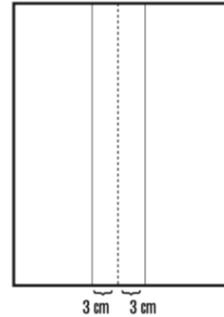
1. Have the student predict which materials would work well to send a message in a miniature boat: tin foil, magazine or newspaper, writing paper, and wax paper.
2. Students build simple boats to determine which two boats delivered the rescue messages. Follow the steps shown in the diagram below. Make boats out of paper, newspaper, wax paper and foil. Each time, start with an approximately 8" x 11" piece.
3. Record observations of which boats floated, and which boats sunk over time.



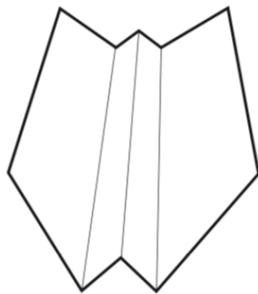
1. Fold 8" x 11" sheet of paper in half along its length.



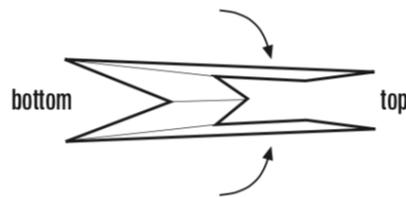
2. Open and flatten the paper. Mark off a 3 cm strip on both sides of the crease.



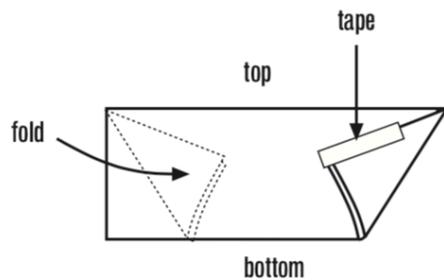
3. Flip the sheet over and fold along each dotted line. When done, the sheet folds will produce a "W" shape.



4. Fold the two halves together with the center indented.



5. Fold each end over 2/3 of the way down from top to bottom and tape the flap in place



6. Open the boat up and flatten out the bottom.

