

NATURAL BOAT RUN

Toss your nature boat into flowing water. Where does it go?

DETAILS

- Age: Can be done at any age!
- Time: 5 - 40 minutes
- Materials: found natural materials, biodegradable string (optional)

PREPARATION

- Dress properly for the weather.
- Find a safe outdoor space with running water, such as a small creek.

LEAVE NO TRACE

- Only use natural material for boats! They may float downstream.
- Bring a bag to collect any litter you find.

COVID PRECAUTIONS

When choosing a place to explore, please be mindful of the CDC's recommended social distancing protocols.

EXPLORATION QUESTIONS

- What do you notice? 
- Do you see any patterns? 
- How do items in the water affect how your boat moves?
- What surprised you?

OBJECTIVES

- OBSERVE and LOOK CLOSELY at nature
- EXPLORE outdoor spaces and COLLECT natural materials
- CREATE, TEST and IMPROVE designs based on individual goals

ACTIVITY STEPS

-  Walk out to a nearby stream or water drainage - any moving water will do.
-  Find a natural item that will float, such as a leaf, wood chip, or seed. Toss it into the water and watch, following your item as it flows downstream.
-  Do this several times, with various materials.
 -  Does the size, shape or type of material change how your item moves in the water?
 -  What is your goal - Speed? Not getting stuck? Spinning in circles as it goes? This is up to you!
-  Based on your observations, build a boat using multiple found natural items. You may want to use a small amount of biodegradable string to tie boat elements together, or you may not.
-  Place your boat into the water and see what happens! Using your observations, build a new boat, or retrieve the original if possible, and try again!

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If your household enjoys friendly competition, try making your final run a race!

SHOW US YOUR BOAT!

Take a photo or video of the boat you create and share it on facebook with #BOLCActivityToTry!