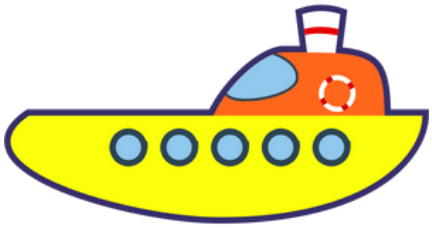
YSLP Week 2022 Activity

Future of Transport: Brilliant Boats

Introduction: Future of Transport

There are lots of different modes of transport that gets people and things from A to B, from walking to school, all the way to space probes launching into outer space.



Many of these modes of transport currently rely on fossil fuels which contribute to the climate crisis. Transport of the future will therefore have to change drastically to meet our net zero carbon emissions targets to tackle the climate emergency.

Brilliant Boats

One of the ways that many of our things, from tiny bits of Lego all the way to cars, get to us is by boat. Your participants will investigate the properties of different materials and if they float or sink and use this to inform their design of a boat to float and carry an object from A to B.

Activity Set Up

What you will need:

- Objects for your boats to carry e.g. building blocks (make sure they are all waterproof)
- Craft and recycled items to build your boats (make sure they are all clean) e.g.:
  - drinks bottles
  - plastic tubs
  - lolly sticks
  - cardboard etc.
- Scissors
- Glue
- Sticky tape
- String
- Blue tack
- Colouring pens or pencils
- A large tray of water to test your boats in

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Keeping Safe

Before you create and lead your activity, complete the *Staying Safe* section of the Create badge, or the Risk Assessment template, in your Log.

Risks to consider:

- Cuts from scissors
- Paper cuts from card
- Drowning risk from water
- Choking hazard from small craft items or getting tangled in string

Leading the Activity

1. Have all the craft items available for making boats, and the objects for the boats to carry, laid out. Get your participants to gather round the water tray. Have them test some of the craft items and objects to see whether they sink or float.
2. Send them away to work in teams. Their aim is to use the craft items to create the sturdiest boat that will hold the heaviest object. Can they remember which items seemed to float well during the testing stage?
3. Once they are all finished making their boats, gather back round the water tray. Use the objects to test what they heaviest weight the boats can carry is.

Twitter Challenge

Did you boat float?

What was the biggest or heaviest object that you managed to transport? Tag us in your photos and videos of your brilliant boats and let us know what you managed to transport @YoungSTEMLeader #YoungSTEMLeaderWeek

Enter by 8pm for the chance to win a prize for your centre!