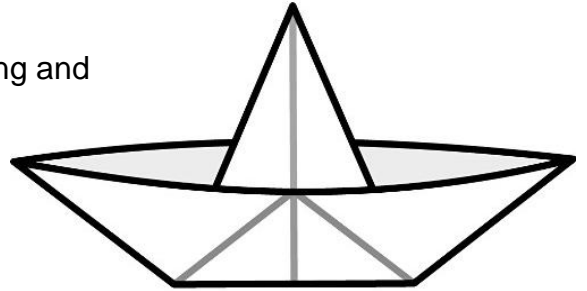


Buoyant Boats!

Discover the most effective boat designs by designing and building your own boat!

Materials

- Ball of Modeling Clay
- Plastic dish pan (or similar)



Process

- 1.** Form your clay into the shape you think will best float. It can look like a boat or anything else you think might float
- 2.** Test it? Did it float?
- 3.** Make any changes needed and try again!

CHALLENGE: Use a straw to punch a hole in the bottom of your boat. Can you figure out a way to make your boat unsinkable, even with the hole?

So What's Happening?

Buoyancy is how much something sinks or floats in the water. A boat floating on the ocean's surface has positive buoyancy. However, when something sinks to the ocean's floor it has negative buoyancy. Submarines spend most of their time somewhere in between, floating under the water's surface; this is called neutral buoyancy.

Vocabulary

- **Buoyancy** – how much something sinks or floats in the water.

For More Information

Explorit Science Center. "Science Bytes: Float, Sink, or Swim." Last Modified 2011.

<http://www.explorit.org/science/bytes/float.html>

Georgia State University: HyperPhysics. "Buoyancy." Last Modified 2011.

<http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/Hbase/hframe.html>