Boat Challenge

What Floats Your Boat?

INTRO

Sink or float? Test your engineering skills to create a boat that will float and hold as many pennies as possible! Try different boat shapes and sizes. Have your students predict how many pennies their boat will hold.

SUPPLIES

- Aluminum Foil
- Tape
- Pennies
- A Bowl
- Straws (optional)

VOCAB

- Prediction
- Mass

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Make your base out of straws (optional). Try starting out with a triangular or circular frame!
2. Take a piece of foil and make your boat structure. Either wrap the straw base in foil, or create the base and boat only using foil. Make sure to keep it sealed to prevent holes and leaks in your boat!
3. Once your boat is complete, fill up a bowl with water.
4. Place your boat in the water and watch it float. Test the strength of your boat by placing pennies onto your boat.
5. Place (and count) as many pennies as you think your boat will hold. Eventually, your boat may sink.

DISCUSS

- How many pennies did your boat hold? What can you do to your boat to hold more pennies?
- Which boat shape held the most pennies? Which boat shape held the least amount of pennies?
- Is your boat stronger or weaker when you make a plastic straw frame for your boat?