

Make a Paper Boat!

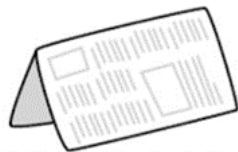
Even though you probably don't have a bunch of wood or steel laying around, you can still build a boat... with paper! The basic principles of buoyancy are the same – all the way from a giant steamship to a boat folded from a single sheet of paper.

Materials:

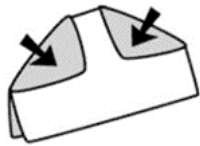
- Paper (newspaper is perfect!)
- A handful of coins
- A bowl or sink full of water

EXPERIMENT
with
BUOYANCY!

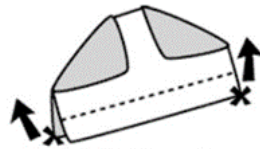
Make a paper boat!



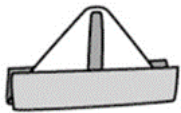
1. Start with a sheet of newspaper folded in half



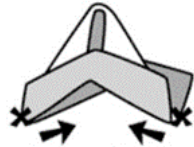
2. Fold top corners in toward the middle



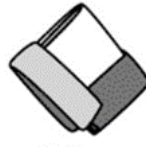
3. Fold bottom edges up on both sides ...



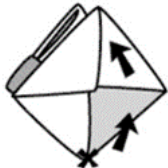
4. ... and flatten like this.



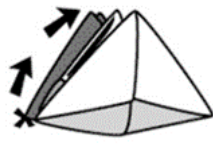
5. Bring the ends together ...



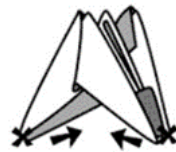
6. ... and flatten sideways to make a square



7. Fold one bottom corner up ...



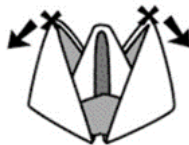
8. ... then fold the other corner up.



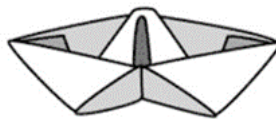
9. Bring the ends together ...



10. ... and flatten sideways to make a square.



11. Gently pull the ends down to open



12. Here's your new boat!

Credit: PBS Kids

How well does your
boat float?

Try adding a few coins to
the boat.

How does it float
now?

Can you design a
different paper boat
that can carry more
coins?

How does the amount of
surface area touching the
water affect how it floats?