

ENGINEERING
CHALLENGE

07

CARDBOARD BOAT



THE
JAMES
DYSON
FOUNDATION

CARDBOARD BOAT

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Designed by Ben,
Design engineer at Dyson

The brief

Construct a boat to support up to 250g without sinking.

The method

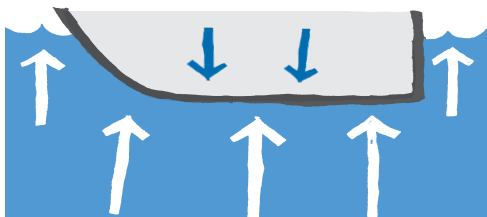
1. Draw out the basic shape of your boat on the cardboard, and cut it out.
2. Create walls for your boat from more cardboard.
3. Stick the bottom of the boat and the walls together with tape or glue.
4. Back everything with wax paper or foil – be careful not to leave any gaps where the water can get in.
5. Place the 250g weight in the boat.
6. Set your boat afloat.

Materials

Cardboard
Wax paper
Tape or glue
Rubber bands
Foil
Scissors
(with adult supervision)
Craft knives
(with adult supervision)
A 250g weight

Top tip

Think about stability. Some shapes are more stable than others when a load is applied.



How does it work?

When a boat is placed in water, it displaces an amount of water equal to the boat's weight – as long as the object is less dense than the water, it will float.

Design icons



The SS Great Britain was the first iron steamer to cross the Atlantic. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel in 1845, it was the first ship to combine an iron body with a screw propeller.