

Bathtub Boats

Upcycled Crafts (suitable for
children and grown-ups)



Wine Cork Sailboats!



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Upcycled Crafts for Kids (and their grown-ups)

01

GATHER

Three wine corks (thanks Memorial Day Weekend [don't worry, we stayed home!]), one rubber band and one tooth pick.

We made our sail out of an unused blue dog poop bag (pictured) but if you don't have any at home, any small plastic bag will work!



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02

PREP

Line the corks up evenly.

Place the rubber band around
the corks.

Fold the bag into a small
triangle.



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03

BUILD

Pinch the top and one bottom corner of the triangle sail together.

Poke the extra-long tooth pick through the pinched top and bottom.

Spread the sail across the tooth pick.

Poke the toothpick into the cork to attach the sail.



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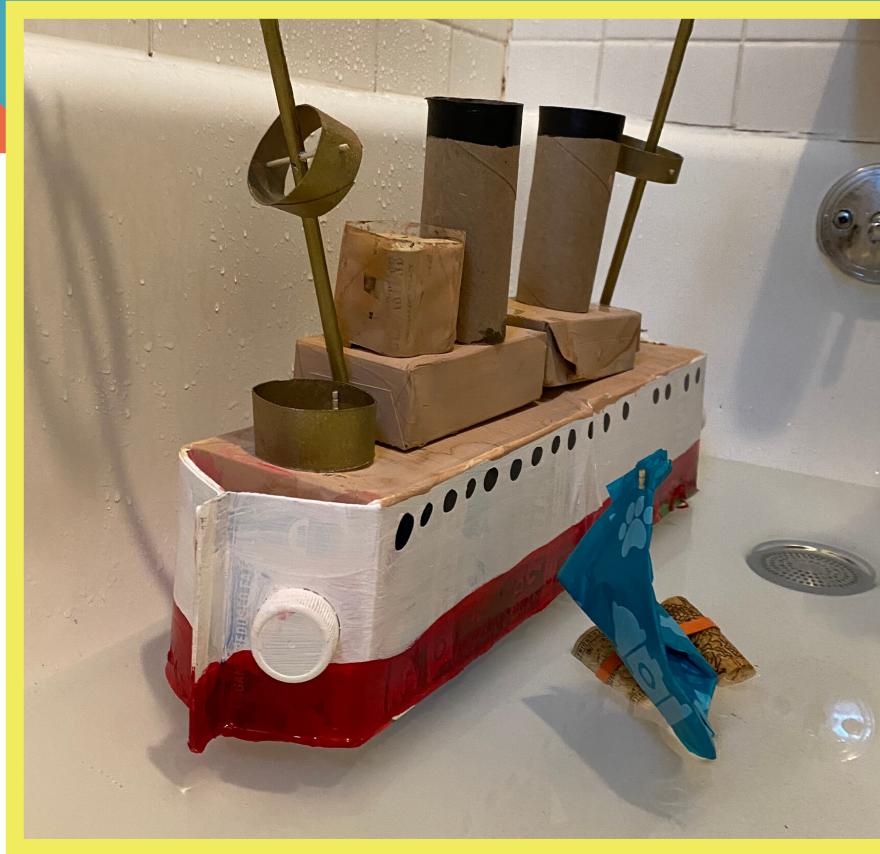
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05

CRUISE

Launch your sailboat where ever you find water! Use #bathtubboats on social media to show us your creation!

Pro tip: If you're tired of the tub, try launching this boat in fast-moving stormwater the next time it rains! Keep reading to turn this into a fun STEM experiment on pollution and stormwater management.



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EXPERIMENT

During the Stay-At-Home Order, big rains are big entertainment! We love to sit on the porch and watch all the rain water rush down our street. But, when it rains a lot, where does all that water go?

We decided to conduct a small, kid-friendly experiment on stormwater management and pollution using our wine cork sailboat.

After assembling your boat, wait for a very rainy day.

Pick a safe spot on your street or sidewalk where the rainwater rushes by. Let's call this your river! Place your sailboat at the start of your river and watch how fast it sails!

Keep track of everything your sailboat passes. What did it pass on its journey?

Where does your sailboat go? Does it make it down the street? What's at the end?

(Be sure to catch your sailboat before it ends up in your storm drain!!)



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RESULTS

If you launch your sailboat on your street on a rainy day, you'll probably find that it passes a few pollutants in the rushing water along its journey before it finally reaches your nearest storm drain.

Because of all the pavement and buildings, when it rains in Philadelphia, rain water floods the streets and flows into storm drains. Storm drains carry this stormwater--and all of the pollutants it catches along the way--into the sewer system.

Stormwater runoff is the biggest cause of pollution to rivers and streams, the source of our drinking water!

Our sailboat passed by soap from a neighbor who washed his car, natural debris like sticks and leaves, two bags of chips and one rubber bicycle handle before it crashed into the tire of a parked car.

What kind of pollutants are traveling to the river from your street?



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