



Whatever Floats Your Boat



Hello,

Here at school, we have been going on engineering adventures with the **Cat in the Hat** from the **PBS KIDS** program **The Cat in the Hat Knows a Lot About That!** Our adventure began when we hopped in the Thingamajigger to visit the amazing Floating Island. We then needed to think like engineers to move our own classroom treasure across the water. We were up to the challenge, and we solved the problem! To learn more, we explored how pieces of aluminum foil could be shaped to keep our treasure from sinking. We used the engineering design process to help us imagine, build, and test boats to discover what shape floated best.

To find out more about what your child learned, you could ask:

- What treasure did you try to float in your boat?
- Did your first boat float with the treasure in it?
- What shapes did you try to make?
- What shape floated the best?

Go, Go, Go on an Adventure Together!

We have a challenge for you and your child. Start by watching **“Do Try This at Home!: Make a Boat.”**

<https://bit.ly/2PICUgh>

Next, you and your child can practice the test portion of the **The Engineering Design Process** and design a test to see which objects sink or float.



To begin, fill a small container, such as a sink or plastic mixing bowl, with water. Choose five objects that are water safe to see if they sink or float. You might try a rock, a small bowl, a piece of foil, wax paper, or a leaf. Test each one to see if it sinks or floats. If it floats, put it in one pile and if it sinks, put it with the other objects that sank.

Continued



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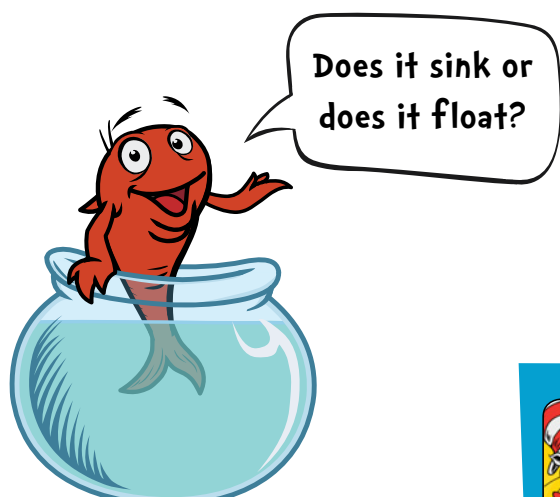


Questions are a great way to help your child make sense of the testing. You might want to ask:

- What was the same about the objects that sank?
- Were all the objects that floated the same?
- Tell me more about how they were the same or different.
- Do you think all of the objects that floated could carry a treasure?
- Do you want to test them to see?

Thank you for connecting our classroom and your home. I look forward to hearing about what you and your child discover.

Until our next learning adventure!



- Children should be supervised around water at all times.
- Do not use 5-gallon buckets. They are a drowning hazard for young children.



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