

Soap Powered Model Boat

You will need:

Boat template, cardboard, scissors, colouring pencils, glue stick, earbud or toothpick, liquid soap or dish wash, large area of clean water (tray or bath)

What to do:

1. Draw or stick the boat template onto the cardboard.
2. Cut out carefully (you may like to colour it in).
3. Dip a toothpick/ear bud in liquid soap or dish wash and paint around the sides of the notch at the back of the boat.
4. Place the boat on the surface of the water in a clean bath (or in a tray) and let it go.

Take it further:

What happens if there is soap already in the water? Can you design some improvements on the model to make it go further and/or faster?

The Science:

Soap is a surfactant – it breaks down the surface tension of the water. As the surface tension is broken, it creates enough force to push the boat across the surface of the water. (To repeat, you will need fresh, clean water).



