



RECYCLE, REUSE-BUILD A SAILBOAT!

Materials

- Curiosity Center signs: **Build a Boat** and **Sail Your Boat** (pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/parentsteachers Click on *Activities & More*, then *Curiosity Center Activities*.)

For the Build a Boat Area

- clean recycled materials for building toy boats: small plastic food containers, lids, trays, and bottle caps; foam water “noodles” sliced into discs; etc.
- craft sticks or coffee stirrers (for masts)
- paper rectangles and triangles cut from colorful magazine pages (for sails)
- waterproof modeling clay and masking tape (for attaching masts and sails)

For the Sail Your Boat Area

- large, shallow basins of water so kids can sail their boats
- drinking straws (cut in half) and pieces of cardboard for blowing and fanning boats

Handout

Family Science Activities: *Going Green* (pbskids.org/curiousgeorge/parentsteachers Click on *Activities & More*, then *Curiosity Center Activities*.)

Background Photos

objects made from recycled materials (for example, playground swings and climbing structures made from tires), windy day pictures of sailboats, wind farm windmills (for generating power), trees blowing, child blowing a pinwheel, etc.

Science Concepts

- Reducing, reusing, and recycling are three key ways to conserve resources and protect the environment.
- Recycled materials can be used to make other things—in this case a toy boat.
- Wind can move floating objects.

Explorations

Set up a boat building area (with recyclable materials) and a boat sailing area (with basins of water).

Build a Boat

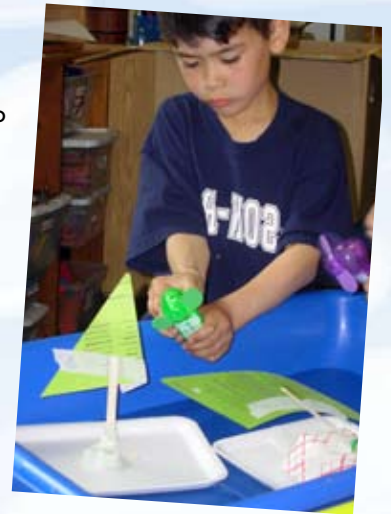
Recycling is just one way that we can help take care of the Earth. We can also try to *reduce* by buying fewer things and by *reusing* the things we have. As you introduce the building materials, talk about **Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling**. Point out the “recycle symbol” on the bottom of a container and talk about what it means. Let kids hunt for the symbol on other containers. Tell kids that today they are going to **reuse** the materials at the Curiosity Center to build toy boats. Provide help as children build their boats. Encourage lots of different designs!

Sail Your Boat

Display and discuss the pictures of windy days. Ask:

- *Have you ever been outside on a windy day? What did it sound like?*
- *What did it feel like? What did you notice was blowing in the wind?*

Have kids blow on their hands, first making a soft breeze and then a strong gust of wind. Have them demonstrate other ways to make the air move and create wind (waving their hands, fanning the air with objects). Invite them to use wind power to make their toy boats move across the container of water. Can they make their boat turn in different directions?



After kids have explored moving their boats by child-generated wind power, they may enjoy using small battery-powered fans. Remind kids not to put the fans in the water.

