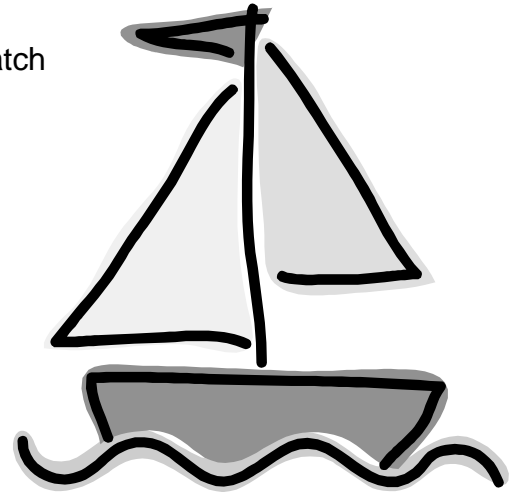


Sail Away

Make and test your own sail designs. What sail shapes catch the wind the best?

Materials

- Ball of modeling clay or play-doh
- Small paper cup
- Straws
- Sail design sheet
- Hole punch
- Scissors



Process

1. Cut out your sail
2. Make your mast (See handout for instructions)
3. Mount your sail on one of our sail boats
4. Test how fast your boat goes by putting it in the water and blowing into the sail.
5. What design goes the fastest?

CHALLENGE: Can you make a sail that sails really fast? Faster than one of our sails?

So What's Happening?

Sails are sheets of fabric that catch the wind and power boats. Recreational sail boats are the most common types of boats you will see today using sails for power, but for thousands of years sails have been used as the main way of providing power for ships and boats. The ships that moved people from continent to continent, freight from one place to another used sails to catch the wind until the invention of motor and engines that could power large ships.

Vocabulary

- **Sail** – surface intended to move a vessel by being placed in a wind
- **Mast** – tall, vertical, or near vertical, pole, or arrangement of poles, which supports the sails

For More Information

Wikipedia.org. "Sail." Last Modified 2011. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sail>