

BALLOON POWERED BOAT

Smooth Sailing Mateys!

Materials:

- 1 Container That Will Float
- 1 Tub Big Enough to Float Your Boat
- 1 Drinking Straw With A Tip That Bends
- 1 Rubber Band
- 1 Balloon
- Clay or Play Dough
- 1 Rubber Duck (optional)

Directions:

First, prepare your boat.

1. Choose any container that will float and that can be punctured easily. You might use a styrofoam bowl, a small milk carton, or an empty butter tub. This container is your boat.
2. When your boat floats in water, the bottom and a little bit of the side will be below water. Poke one small hole in the side of the boat in the part that will be below water. The hole should be just big enough for the straw to go through.
3. Push the non-bendy end of the straw approximately an inch and a half into the neck of the balloon. Put a rubber band around the neck of the balloon so it is attached to the straw. Make sure the rubber band is tight enough to hold the balloon onto the straw when the balloon is filled with air but not so tight that the rubber band crushes the straw.

Next, prepare a tub to float your boat.

4. Choose any large tub that will hold water and is easy to fill up. You might use a children's sized swimming pool or a large ice chest or even the kitchen sink.
5. Fill your tub with cool water.

Finally, put it all together!

6. Starting inside your boat, push half the length of the straw through the hole that you poked in the side. The bendy end should now be outside the boat and the balloon end should be inside the boat.
7. Gently bend the straw into an L shape so the balloon is at the top of the L and the bottom of the L is outside of your boat and will be underwater when it sails.
8. If the hole is larger than the straw, plug the extra space around the straw with clay or Play Dough. This will keep water out of the boat when it sails.
9. Lift up your boat. Using the end of the straw that is outside of your boat, blow up the balloon and put your finger over the tip of the straw to hold in air. Keep your finger on the tip until you are ready to sail your boat.
10. Optional: Place the rubber duck in your boat.
11. Put the boat in your tub with the bendy end of the straw underwater and take your finger off of the tip.
12. Watch your boat as it sails.
13. Experiment with the design of your boat and see what happens. You can try changing the length of the straw or adding a rudder or adding more passengers or anything else that you can think of!

Ships Ahoy Matey!

