

Float my Clay Boat: STEM Night Version

This activity will use the same ideas and principles as the original activity, but the format has been modified to fit the STEM Night format.

For this setup, have one person in charge of each step (1 person at the table to give clay, 1 person at the table for step 2 and 1 person at the tub for step 3).

- **Step 1:** When a student approaches the table, give them 1/3 stick of clay and ask them if they think it will sink or float in the tub of water. If time permits, ask them to explain their hypothesis in detail. Then send them to the tub to find out if their hypothesis is correct.
- **Step 2:** When they return to the table, ask them to create an object out of the clay that will float. Have them show you their object and explain their design. Talk to them about concepts of density.
- **Step 3:** After they have designed their boat, challenge them to design an object to hold as many washers as possible. When they are done, have them show you their design (it must hold the washers for 10 seconds minimum). Record their name and # of washers on a poster board or sheet of paper.

Questions to ask:

- What did you notice while building your boats?
- Why did you make the changes you made?
- What boat designs seemed to work best? What is it about these designs that made them successful?
- What boat designs didn't seem to work well? What is it about these designs that made them less successful or unsuccessful?
- How did your boat change throughout the activity?
- How does the process of building a boat relate to the way the scientific process works?