

Sea of Boats

Ages 2-7

Ahoy, matey!

Sea of Boats is a seasonal outdoors exhibit with fishing and oystering activity stations, a water table and lots of different boats to climb into and explore! While the museum is closed, you can use your imagination and this guide to discover about boats and learn some water science.

Act

Shiver me timbers! Walk the plank! These are some of the sayings you can use while pretending you are the captain or crew of a ship.

Use a large cardboard box or an empty laundry bin to jump in and pretend you are at sea! Use these terms that sailors' use:

Bow: The front of the boat

Stern: The back of the boat

Port: The left-hand side of the boat

Starboard: The right-hand side of the boat

Pretend you're in a storm – how will you act? What if you saw a whale or a school of dolphins? What would you do and say?

My Bed is A Boat

My bed is like a little boat;
Nurse helps me in when I embark;
She girds me in my sailor's coat
And starts me in the dark.

At night I go on board and say
Good-night to all my friends on shore;
I shut my eyes and sail away
And see and hear no more.

And sometimes things to bed I take,
As prudent sailors have to do;
Perhaps a slice of wedding-cake,
Perhaps a toy or two.

All night across the dark we steer;
But when the day returns at last,
Safe in my room beside the pier,
I find my vessel fast.

-Robert Louis Stevenson



Do

Sink or Float Experiment

Search for items around the home made of different materials like plastic, wood, cork, metal, etc.

Fill a wash tub with water. Ask your child what they think will float?

Explain that buoyant objects float and dense objects sink. How does this connect with what you know about boats?



See

Do you live near the water? Try boat spotting! What kinds of boats do you see? How many do you see of each kind? Where do you think they are going?

Create

Nature Boats with Found Materials

Suggested materials: big leaves, small sticks, seed pods, bark, glue.

Note: Please do not pick up anything that is still growing!

Explore More

About Types of boats:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBax68QdHuY>

Read more about the history of New York oystering:

<https://www.billionoysterproject.org/harbor-history>

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