



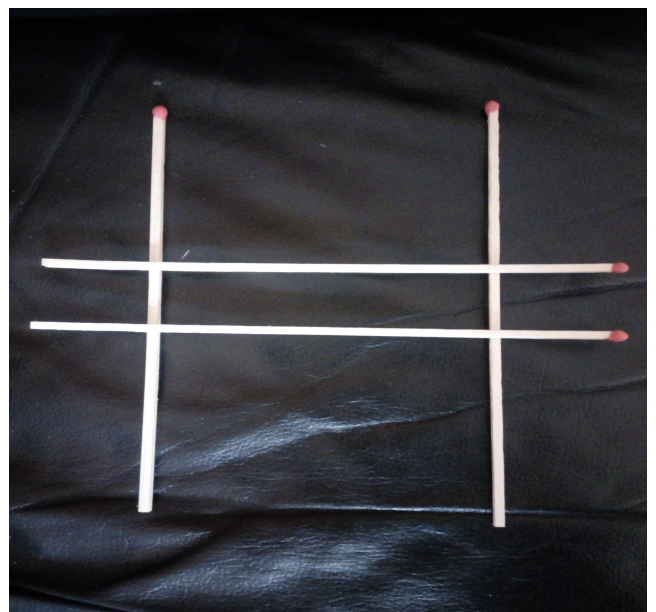
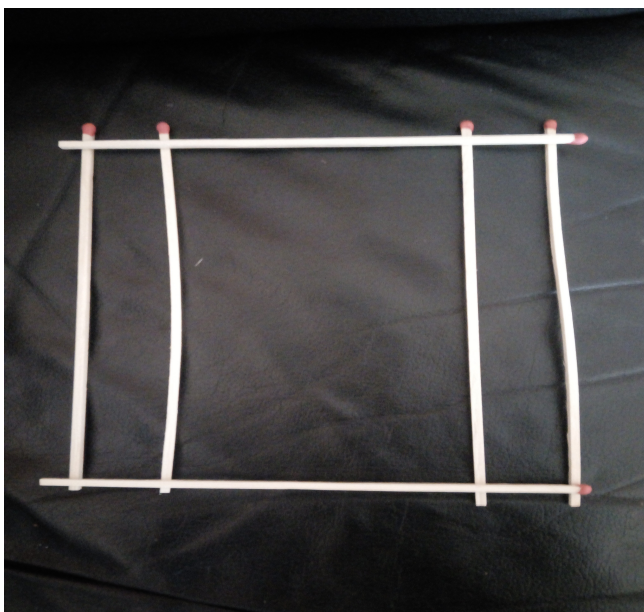
OWLS Build a Mini Raft Challenge!

There are lots of different ways to make something to sail down a stream, around a lake or even in your bathtub! This challenge is to make a small raft. This is not for you to get in! Try sending a toy figure instead!

You will need:

String, several straight and strong sticks, some little plastic bottles or yogurt containers(with lids) and a big leaf (larger than your hand) or a piece of paper.

To start pick your design. Our favourite raft shapes are "the square" or "the H". See pictures:



-Build the frame by tying sticks together wherever they cross each other. Pull the knots tightly to avoid slipping.

-Include at least one "train track" as on each edge of "the square" and the centre bar of "the H". The train track is the space that your flotation aid (plastic bottle or yogurt drink container) will go in. So the train track should be roughly the same width as your aid.

-Attach your flotation aid(s) to your raft by tying them to frame. Use two knots at the each end of your aid. This will be on the bottom of your raft. Make sure there is no liquid in your aids and the lids are on.

-If you wish to make a sail tie another stick so it is standing vertical at either the centre or front of your raft. Push your leaf through the stick making a small hole in the bottom of the leaf. Push the leaf slightly down the stick then make another hole in the top of the leaf and pull down again so that it is attached in two sections. This will allow the wind to catch the "sail". You can also use a piece of paper or tie on a piece of cloth. Note: Make sure the sail is on the opposite side as your flotation aid.

-If you want you could weave through some extra twigs, grass or feathers to decorate your raft (nothing too heavy though!)

-Test it by putting in a safe, shallow piece of water like a sink, bath or puddle! If it sinks add an extra train track and flotation aid.

-Attach a long piece of string to the front of your raft and loop around your wrist like a lead so that you don't lose it when setting off on the maiden voyage!

-The best places to float your raft is ponds and gentle streams with easy access. Why not put a toy figure in the raft and see if it survives getting from one end of the pond to the other??

Note: Children should always be supervised near the water.

Please take your raft home when you are finished playing with it. Don't leave it behind in the stream or pond!