



CURIOUS GEORGE: SAIL A BOAT

Lesson Plan

During this lesson, children explore the following science concepts:

- You can reuse or recycle materials to make other things.
- Wind can move floating objects.

As children go through the activities, they will be using the following science skills:

- Planning and building
- Making predictions
- Experimenting

Materials

General

- ☐ Recycling bin or other object with the recycle symbol on it

For the Build-a-Boat Area

- ☐ Clean, recycled materials for building toy boats: small plastic food containers, lids, trays, and bottle caps; foam water “noodles” sliced into discs; etc.
- ☐ Craft sticks or coffee stirrers (for masts)
- ☐ Paper rectangles and triangle cut from colorful magazine pages (for sails)
- ☐ Waterproof modeling clay and masking tape (for attaching masts and sails)

For the Sail-a-Boat Area

- ☐ Large, shallow basins of water
- ☐ Drinking straws, cut in half (for air power)
- ☐ Pieces of cardboard (for fanning the boats)

Preparation

- Set up a Boat Building area (with recyclable materials) and a Boat Sailing area (with basins of water).
- Build one or more sample boats.
- Find and display related pictures, including:

- Pictures and photographs of objects made from recycled materials, such as playground swings and climbing structures made from tires
- Windy day pictures of sailboats, wind farm windmills, trees blowing, child blowing a pinwheel, and so on

Directions

1. Watch the *Curious George* video, “Junky Monkey.”

- Review with students the concepts of *reducing*, *reusing*, and *recycling*. Ask: *Do you reuse or recycle at home? Describe what you and your family do.*
- Point out the recycle symbol on the bottom of a container and discuss what the symbol means.
- Before watching, explain to students that Curious George and his friends are part of a Pretty City Committee that is helping to clean up the streets. Although Curious George has been helping by picking up trash, he realizes that one person’s trash may be another person’s treasure. He decides to create something special with his trash collection.

2. Build the boats.

- Tell children that they are going to *reuse* materials to build toy boats.
- As children build their boats, circulate throughout the classroom and engage students in conversation. Say, *Tell me about your design. Why did you choose those materials?*
- Praise students’ efforts. Point out the variety of strategies that children are using to build their boats.

3. Sail the boats.

- Discuss the pictures of windy days that you have on display. Ask: *Have you ever been outside on a windy day? What did it sound like? What did it feel like? What did you notice was blowing in the wind?*
- Have children blow on their hands, first making a soft breeze and then a strong gust of wind.
- Have children demonstrate other ways to make the air move and create wind (e.g., waving their hands, fanning the air with objects).
- Invite students to use wind power to make their toy boats move across the containers of water. Can they make their boat turn in different directions?
- After children have explored moving their boats by child-generated wind power, they may enjoy using small battery-powered fans. (*Note: remind children not to put their fans in the water.*)

4. Share and discuss

- Ask students to share their boats with their classmates.
- Together, brainstorm other ways in which you could recycle materials in the classroom.
- If your school participates in a recycling program, bring in a guest speaker, such as the janitor, to talk about how the program works.

Home-School Connection

Copy and distribute the “Going Green” handout for students to take home and share with their families.

Extend with Books

Encourage students to use these books as they continue to learn about recycling.

Curious George Car Wash by H. A. Rey (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2013)

George and his friend Allie use ordinary household items to build their own version of a car wash.

The Earth Book by Todd Parr (Little, Brown, 2010)

From planting a tree to conserving energy, this book offers ways to “take care of the earth.”

Garbage and Litter by Jen Green (PowerKIDS Press, 2010)

From food to plastic to glass, this book explores ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle. See also *What Can We Do About Trash and Recycling?* by Lorijo Metz (PowerKIDS, 2010)

Recycle Every Day by Tammy Gagne (Amicus, 2013)

Colorful photographs explain the “why” and “how” of recycling.

The Three R’s: Reuse, Reduce, Recycle by Nuria Rocca (Barron’s 2007)

This book suggests ways that children and their families can help the environment.

Extend with Apps

Children can use this app in class or at home.

Curious George’s Town (available through iTunes)

With the friendly guidance of The Man With The Yellow Hat, children help Curious George do his chores—including collecting items at the Grocery Store, baking cakes at the Bakery, and cleaning and recycling at the Park—in order to earn coins and save up for new purchases.



CURIOUS GEORGE is a production of Imagine Entertainment, WGBH Boston, and Universal 1440 Entertainment, LLC. Executive producers are Ron Howard (Imagine), Brian Grazer (Imagine), Ellen Cockrill (Universal), Carol Greenwald (WGBH), Dorothea Gillim (WGBH), Jon Shapiro and David Kirschner. Curious George and related characters, created by Margret and H.A. Rey are copyrighted and trademarked by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt and used under license. Licensed by Universal Studios Licensing LLC. Television series: ©2014. Universal Studios. All Rights Reserved. The PBS KIDS logo is a registered mark of PBS and is used with permission. *Proud Sponsors of Curious George® on PBS KIDS® are Stride Rite Children's Group, LLC., ABCmouse.com, and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.* **FOR PROMOTIONAL USE ONLY.**