



Raft Building

learnlink™

About the activity

Down to the water's edge and your pupils' challenge is to design and build a robust and working raft. There'll be a number of components available, including large plastic barrels, ropes and poles. Our staff can give as much or as little support as you'd like but it's a great teamwork exercise and will help your pupils improve their communication, problem solving and decision-making. Once rafts are ready to launch, the fun begins on the water!

Activity aims

The aim of this activity is to:

- Ensure participants work together supporting and encouraging each other.
- Increase confidence, self-awareness and general social skills.
- Develop communication, problem solving, leadership and teamwork skills.
- Provide an opportunity for participants to discuss what they have accomplished.

Progression opportunities

Some participants may also:

- Be able to devise and put into practice a range of solutions to a problem.
- Take a leading role when working with others.
- Identify and respond to weaknesses in their group by planning improvements.
- Take the initiative in evaluating their performance and that of the group.
- Discover links to science e.g. levers, forces.

In addition, participants should also have developed in the following:

- Interpersonal communication
- Teamwork
- Decision making skills

Learning outcomes

Upon completion of the activity, participants will have:

- Demonstrated the ability to listen to, understand and act on instructions received.
- Developed the skills to work in small groups communicating effectively.
- Collaborated with others in a group to solve a problem or make a decision choosing strategies appropriate to the task.
- Effectively worked in small teams supporting their peers throughout the activity and recognised their achievements.
- Contributed to performance review led by the instructor identifying what they did well and then suggested ways to improve.

Associated vocabulary

Words relevant to safety e.g. boundaries, rules, risk assessment, safety area.

Words relevant to equipment e.g. paddle, buoyancy aid, helmet, barrels, ropes.

Words relevant to the activity e.g. co-ordination, planning, imagination, problem solving, solution, improvised raft, knots, stability.

Words relevant to teamwork e.g. achievement, communication, encouragement, listening, participation, review, support.