



Paper Boat Factory

Work in groups to make the right number of paper boats

TIME

20-25 minutes



TEAM STAGE

Norming, Performing

MATERIALS

Large stack of paper

SUMMARY

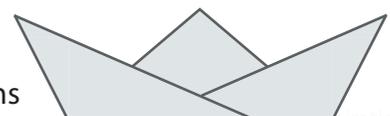
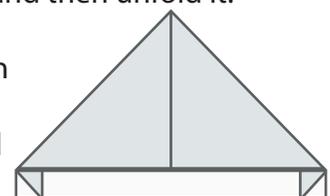
Participants work in groups to make a specified quantity and quality of paper boats, under the instruction of a group leader.

SET UP

- Ensure that there is enough paper for the activity. There should be at least 40 sheets per every five participants.
 - **Facilitator Note:** The paper used in the activity can be recycled or reused paper. It does not matter if there is anything printed or written on the paper. This can be a more environmentally friendly and cost effective option, as this activity requires a large quantity of paper.

INSTRUCTIONS

- Break participants into groups of approximately five participants. Have each group elect a group leader.
- Take all the group leaders into a separate room and show them how to make a paper boat. Have each group leader make one to ensure they understand how.
 - Holding a piece of paper portrait orientation, fold it in half left to right and then unfold it.
 - Fold the paper in half again, but this time from top to bottom.
 - Ensure that the open end of the fold is on the bottom of the paper, then fold both top corners down to the crease at the center line.
 - Take the flap that extends below the two triangles that were just folded and fold in the corners so that they meet the bottom of the triangles
- Then, flip the paper over and repeat with the flap on the other side.
- Take the flaps that have just had their corners folded in and fold them up so that the paper forms a complete triangle.
- With your thumbs inside the bottom flap of the triangle, gently pull the sides apart until the two corners meet, then flatten the paper out so that it forms a diamond.
- Ensure that the opening of the diamond is on the bottom, then fold the bottom corner up to the top corner. Flip the paper over and repeat the step of folding the bottom corner up to the top corner to form a triangle.
- Just as before, with your thumbs inside the bottom flap of the triangle, gently pull the sides apart until the two corners meet, then flatten the paper out so that it forms a diamond.
- Pinch both sides of the top corner of the diamond and gently pull them apart. Continue pulling the corners down until the paper forms a boat.





INSTRUCTIONS *(continued)*

- Tell the group leaders that each group needs to make 40 paper boats of the same size and appearance as the one that was showed to them. They will have 15 minutes to accomplish this task.
- Bring the group leaders back to the room with the rest of the participants, and then start the 15-minute timer.
- At the end of the 15 minutes, ask groups to report out how many paper boats they were able to make.

VARIATIONS

- Instead of using paper, consider using old magazines or newspaper along with scissors. These materials may be more readily available, and they add the extra challenge of needing to obtain a piece of paper with the correct dimensions before making the paper boat.
- For an added challenge, provide markers and require boats to be decorated in a particular way.

 **Large Group:** To facilitate this activity for a large group, assign a smaller quantity of paper boats and a shorter amount of time. This will preserve the challenge of the activity but require fewer materials.

 **Medium Risk:** To facilitate a more medium risk variation of this activity, tell group leaders that they can only give verbal instructions when explaining how to make the paper boat. They may not show the folds or their own paper boat as an example.

 **Online:** To facilitate this activity virtually, ensure that each participant has access to any type of paper to use in the activity. Send each group into a breakout room, but ask the group leaders to stay behind in the main room. Once all members have left, instruct the group leaders how to make the paper boats. Send them to their designated breakout room when instructions are completed. [\[click here for video\]](#)

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS

- What:
 - How did your group plan to accomplish the assigned task?
 - What did time management look like in your group during this activity?
- So What:
 - Why is time management an important skill for us to have as a group?
 - What tactics have been helpful or hurtful to our group's ability to accomplish tasks in the past?
- Now What:
 - What are five ways that this group can be more effective at managing our time moving forward?
 - How can we maintain tactics that are helpful and minimize those that are hurtful in the future?

 **Facilitator Note:** These questions can be used to guide your debrief, however, pick the questions that best match your group's experience and add or change questions as needed.