



## Family Activity - Creek Boat Race

<b>Summary</b> <i>Race boats in the creek to learn about creek currents, riffles and pools.</i>	<b>Time</b> 30 mins
<b>Materials</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One sheet of 8 1/2 x 11-inch construction paper or cardstock for each boat</li></ul>	

**Note:** *Always be careful around creeks. Children should be supervised. Creeks are delicate ecosystems, please tread carefully.*

### Activity Directions

1. **Make boats.** Fold your own paper boat. For ideas and directions, search paper boat designs.
2. **Predict boat speed.** Hypothesize whether the boats will travel slowly or quickly in a given area.
3. **Release boats.** Release the boats into the creek at different points. Have a race or just watch the boats go down the creek. Retrieve the boats.
4. **Compare results to predictions.**
5. **Identify creek parts.** See if you can identify the different parts of the creek: riffle, pool, meander.
6. **Test again and again.**
7. **Retrieve all boats.**

### **Background**

**Riffle:** *A shallow stretch of stream where water flows quickly and gravel or rocks are often present.*

*Importance: Many fish need the gravel bottom of a riffle to reproduce and lay their eggs.*

**Pool:** *A deep stretch of stream where water flows more slowly than other stretches. Importance:*

*Many aquatic bugs and small fish need the slower waters of a pool to feed.*

**Stream meander:** *The way a stream weaves from side to side, carving out the bank. Importance: A stream meanders through flat areas, which can balance the energy of the rushing water.*

*Text adapted from Streamkeeper's Field Guide. Adopt-a-Stream Fndtn; 3rd Revised edition (June 1991)*

