

MAX'S EXCITING EXPEDITION

ACTIVITY 2 LAND BOAT

In the story, *Where the Wild Things Are*, Max begins his voyage to the land of the wild things from the forest-filled room of his imagination. As the vast ocean appears, a boat pulls up to the shore with Max's name on it. Excited to begin his adventure, he jumps in and sails off across "days, weeks, and years" until he reaches an exciting new land.

In this activity, you will build a land boat and sail it across time, just like Max did.

Did you know?

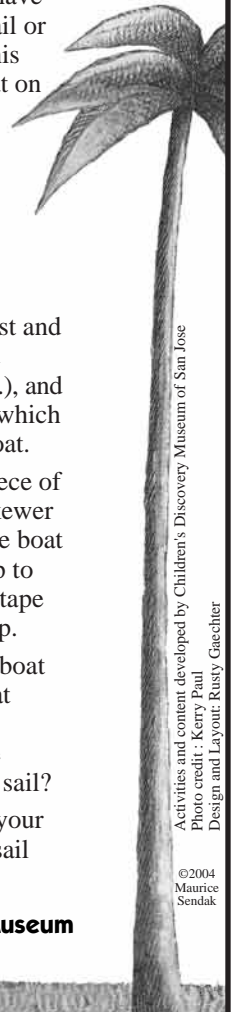
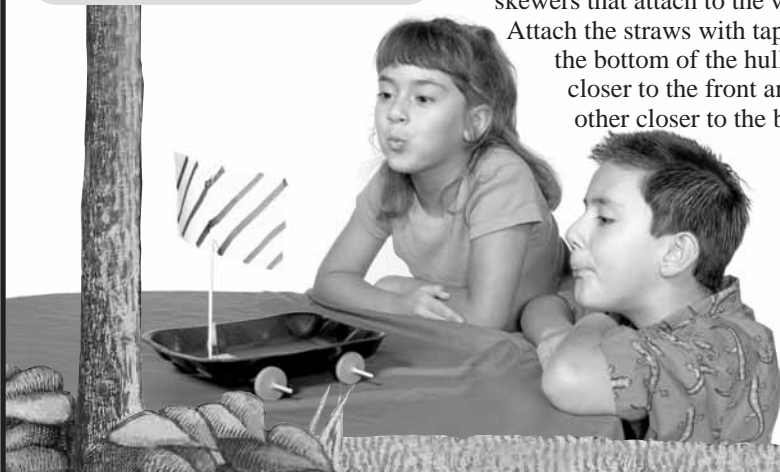
- ☞ A boat's sails catch the wind in a way that is similar to an airplane's wings, using a force called *lift*.
- ☞ Naomi James became the first woman to sail alone around the world in 1977-1978. Her journey took 272 days.
- ☞ Maurice Sendak, the author of *Where the Wild Things Are*, was born in Brooklyn, New York. He has traveled to many places to accept awards for the 80 books he has written, and he was the first American ever to receive the Hans Christian Anderson Award.

What you'll need:

- ☞ 2 straws
- ☞ Paperclip
- ☞ 5-6 wooden skewers, wire or twigs
- ☞ Tape
- ☞ A push pin or small nail
- ☞ A ruler
- ☞ 4 lids (from film canisters, yogurt containers, milk jugs, etc.) or the bottoms from paper or Styrofoam cups
- ☞ One of the following: a Styrofoam tray, milk carton, small box, or a piece of paper
- ☞ A variety of materials for sails: paper, different types of material, cellophane, foil

Try it!

- ☞ Have you ever seen a sailboat speed across the waves? In this activity, you'll build a sailboat (that works on land) and test it with a variety of types of sails to find out which sails work best.
- ☞ To make your boat, start with the hull, the main part for passengers or cargo. Find a meat or vegetable foam tray, or if you don't have one, cut a milk carton or small box in half.
- ☞ To make this a land boat, you'll need to attach a set of axles and wheels to the bottom of your foam tray or box. To make the casing for your axle, cut two straws so that they are just shorter than the width of your boat — these will hold the wooden skewers that attach to the wheels. Attach the straws with tape to the bottom of the hull — one closer to the front and the other closer to the back.
- ☞ Now add some wheels to your land boat. Poke a starter hole into the middle of each of the lids you have collected by pushing a small nail or push pin into the lid center. (This works best if you put the lid flat on a hard surface.) Insert wooden skewers into the straws on the bottom of your boat and push the lid wheels onto the ends of the skewers. Flip your boat over and try rolling it. Adjust the wheels if they rub.
- ☞ Now you can work on your mast and sail. Experiment with different materials (paper, fabric, foil, etc.), and sail sizes and shapes to decide which sail works best for your land boat.
- ☞ To create your sail, cut out a piece of material and tape or thread a skewer through it. Attach the sail to the boat by taping an unfolded paperclip to the bottom of your boat. Then tape the skewer mast to the paperclip.
- ☞ How far can you get your land boat to sail by blowing into it? What happens if you blow harder or softer? What if you change the material, size, or shape of your sail?
- ☞ Create a chart to keep track of your different experiments. Which sail went the farthest?



Activities and content developed by Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
Photo credit: Kerry Paul
Design and Layout: Rusty Gaechter

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**Children's Discovery Museum
of San Jose**



Tear into a magazine or newspaper

1. Look in a magazine or newspaper to find a picture of a vehicle you would like to drive. Write some words underneath the picture that describe how the vehicle drives.
2. What will the weather be like on your adventure? Find the weather report for your destination of choice in the newspaper. Write a story about your travels based on the weather report. Don't forget to add your work in this section to the journal or story that you started last week!

Journey over to Children's Discovery Museum

In the exhibition *Where the Wild Things Are: Maurice Sendak in His Own Words and Pictures*, visitors can enjoy large-size copies of many of Sendak's books, and interact with the stories and characters by jumping into scenes. You could even become a chef and cook in the 'Night Kitchen.' Exhibit open through December 2004.

Find out more...

Check out this Maurice Sendak book and learn more about sail boats and other vehicles:

- ☾ *In the Night Kitchen* by Maurice Sendak
- ☾ *The Visual Dictionary of Ships and Sailing* by Dorling Kindersley Publishing
- ☾ *Read and Learn: Wheels, Wings and Water* by Lola M. Schaefer