

Competition: Penny Boat Challenge Sponsored by the Office of Student Success

Competitors are working to determine whether the shape of a boat can affect how much weight it holds – specifically, a foil boat holding pennies!

Work individually or in groups of 2-3. Each will be given a square of aluminum foil and a certain number of pennies. Groups/Individuals are to construct a boat out of the foil to hold as many pennies as possible without sinking. Each boat will be made from only one of the foil squares.

Boats will be tested in a tub of water, one penny at a time. The boat must float for five seconds before that penny addition is counted as successful. Water entering the boat or the boat touching the bottom of the tub is considered sinking, and the last penny added before the sinking doesn't count toward the penny total.

It is suggested that groups sketch out ideas.