

WORKSHOP EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Built by The Home Depot Kids Workshop

November 2021: Amphibious Military Vehicle

Ages 5-12

CONNECT.

Every kind of transportation has special components to keep its passengers safe. Airplanes, for example, have seat belts, oxygen masks, and even life vests for emergency water landings.

Can you brainstorm some of the different safety features that cars have? What about boats?

INVESTIGATE.

There's a good chance you thought of life vests when it comes to keeping passengers safe aboard a boat, but did you consider *lifeboats*? More common on larger water vehicles, a lifeboat is a small boat that is kept on deck in case passengers need to evacuate.

Since your Amphibious Military Vehicle can travel both on land *and* in water, let's create a lifeboat for it!

You'll need:

- Your Amphibious Military Vehicle
- Duct tape
- Paper towel or toilet paper roll
- Scissors
- Painters' tape
- Aluminum foil
- Sink, tub, or basin filled with water
- Styrofoam, straws, corks, or other buoyant materials

1. Cut your paper towel roll or toilet paper roll in half the long way, so it resembles a boat. Trim the ends as needed so it fits easily on top of your Amphibious Military Vehicle.
2. Experiment with the tape and aluminum foil to waterproof your lifeboat. The last thing you want during a rescue operation is a boat that's wet and soggy!
3. Once you're confident that the lifeboat is waterproof, place it in water to test it out. At this point, you'll also want to ensure that your lifeboat is buoyant—or able to stay afloat—too. A lifeboat that sinks won't be very helpful!
4. If your boat does sink, what changes or additions can you make to increase its buoyancy?
5. Make changes as needed until your boat is waterproof *and* buoyant.

INNOVATE.

You'll need:

- Your Amphibious Military Vehicle
- Your new lifeboat
- String
- Superglue
- Rubber bands
- Velcro®
- Scissors
- Duct tape

1. A lifeboat won't be safe if it just rests on top of your Amphibious Military Vehicle. It needs to be attached securely so it doesn't fall off! Also, while you don't want the lifeboat to fall off your vehicle, it also shouldn't be impossible to move it into the water.
2. Experiment with the string, rubber bands, and Velcro® as you brainstorm solutions that could help your lifeboat attach *and* detach easily. The lifeboat needs to be available quickly and easily during an emergency.
3. Once you have an idea, use your materials to bring it to life! Then practice attaching and detaching your lifeboat several times to make sure it works as well as you envisioned. If any part of the process is tricky, make small changes until it seems easier.

Remember: Even a few seconds can make a big difference in an emergency situation!

