

Busy Bins for \$5 or less



**Soak it Up:
Spongy
STEAM
Activities**

MATERIALS

- New, household sponges
- Latex Balloon(s)
- Drinking Straw(s)
- Grass Seed
- Pipe Cleaners
- Uncooked Egg
- Clothespins
- Paint
- Paper
- Scissors*
- Printable challenge cards available at:
www.STEAMengineOKC.org/freebies#busybins

INSTRUCTIONS

- Download the free printables and follow along to complete the following activities:
 - Balloon-powered Sponge Boat
 - Sponge Sail Boat
 - Sponge Garden/Sprout House
 - Egg Drop Challenge
 - Sponge Painting Process Art

Note: Some challenges may require adult supervision or participation.
*Required for certain activities. Adult supervision recommended while using scissors







BALLOON POWERED SPONGE BOAT

Materials

- Sponge(s)
- Balloon
- Scissors and/or craft knife

Instructions

1. Carefully cut the sponge into the shape of a boat.
2. Cut a small slit in the center of the sponge.
3. Insert the opening of the balloon through the slit in the sponge.
4. Blow up the balloon and pinch it closed. Hold it closed.
5. Keeping the balloon opening closed, set your boat into a body of water (bath tub, sink, kiddie pool, etc).
6. Release your grip and watch you boat jet across the water.
7. Experiment with different sponge shapes and/or make your own improvements.



SPONGE SAILBOAT

Materials

- Sponge(s)
- Drinking Straw
- Paper
- Scissors and/or craft knife

Instructions

1. Carefully cut the sponge into the shape of a boat.
2. Cut a slit in the sponge and insert the drinking straw to act as your mast
3. Cut a sheet of paper into a sail (traditionally a triangle, but experiment with shapes of your choosing).
4. Cut two slits 3-5 inches apart into your paper sail
5. Insert your straw (mast) into the two slits
6. Set your boat into a body of water (bath tub, sink, kiddie pool) and blow into the sail.
7. Experiment with different sponge shapes and/or make your own improvements.
8. Have a sponge sailboat race with a friend or sibling!

SPROUT HOUSE/SPONGE GARDEN

Materials

- Sponge(s)
- Grass Seed
- Water
- Plastic Dish/Lid to hold your creation
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Cut sponges into desired shapes
2. Soak sponges in water and then wring about half of the liquid out
3. Arrange/Build with them as you choose (garden, house, other shapes)
4. Sprinkle the grass seeds on top of your structure
5. Set in a sunny spot
6. Sprinkle/Spray with water daily to keep it moist
7. Seeds should sprout in 3-5 days and reach maturity in 10-12 days.
8. Transplant to a small pot and then maintain with scissors.



EGG DROP CHALLENGE

Materials

- Sponge(s)
- Uncooked Egg
- Pipe Cleaners / Chenille Stems

Instructions

1. Use sponges and pipe cleaners to build a device to protect an egg from a fall.
2. On an easily cleanable surface (tile floor, outside, etc), test your device by dropping it from heights of 1 foot, 2 feet, and 3 feet.
 - a. If the egg breaks, make improvements and try again.
 - b. What is the maximum height from which you can drop your device before the egg breaks?

SPONGE PAINTING PROCESS ART

Materials

- Sponge(s)
- Clothespins
- Paint
- Paper
- Scissors

Instructions

1. Cut sponges into desired shapes (A good chance to practice cutting skills)
2. Dip sponges into paint (with fingers or using clothespins as handles) and try different painting techniques/processes:
 - a. Stamping
 - b. Smearing
 - c. Blending/Mixing
 - d. Finger painting

