

Ha Long Bay DIY Boat

When Vietnam became its own nation, there were invaders who were trying to attack them. A legend says that in Ha Long Bay, the Gods sent a family of dragons to help protect Vietnam. The dragons spit jewels and jade down into the water to create a wall that protected against the invaders. The jewels then became the 1,600 islands that you can find within the bay. The bay itself was named after the mother dragon, Ha Long. People still live on these islands, and even on floating fishing villages. Can you make your own floating fishing village?

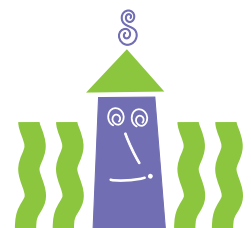
YOU WILL NEED

- Pen
- Paper
- Aluminum foil
- Pennies or other coins
- A large container
- Water

STEPS

1. Design your boat by either drawing it out on paper or folding paper into the shapes you want to try.
2. Fill a large container with water. Make sure it is enough water to allow something to sink.
3. Cut a few sheets of aluminum foil into about 12" x 12" squares.
4. Fold or bend the sheet of aluminum foil into the design of your boat.
5. Place your boat on the water and add the pennies or coins one by one until the boat sinks.
6. Record your data and tweak your design to see if you can make a boat that holds even more coins.

QUESTIONS TO SELF: What about this boat design worked? What about this boat design didn't work? How can I make this design different?



Stepping Stones Museum for Children