

MAKE YOUR OWN SAILING BOAT

Use our handy sailing boat diagram to learn about the different parts of a sailing boat used at Calshot Activities Centre. Then have a go at building your own boat.



Takes: 20 mins

Where? Indoors

Who? Individual or pairs

You will need:

A range of household materials to build your boat.

- Something that floats, like a bottle
- A thin sheet, like paper, for the 'mainsail'.
- An upright object, like a pencil, for the 'mast'.

Get creative and have fun with it!

Safety

Children should remain supervised throughout especially when using scissors and when testing the boat in a sink/bathtub.

Learning the parts of a sailing boat:

Here is a list of the parts of a sailing boat together with a handy diagram.

The **HULL** is just a fancy word for the boat. It is wide and stable and floats very well.

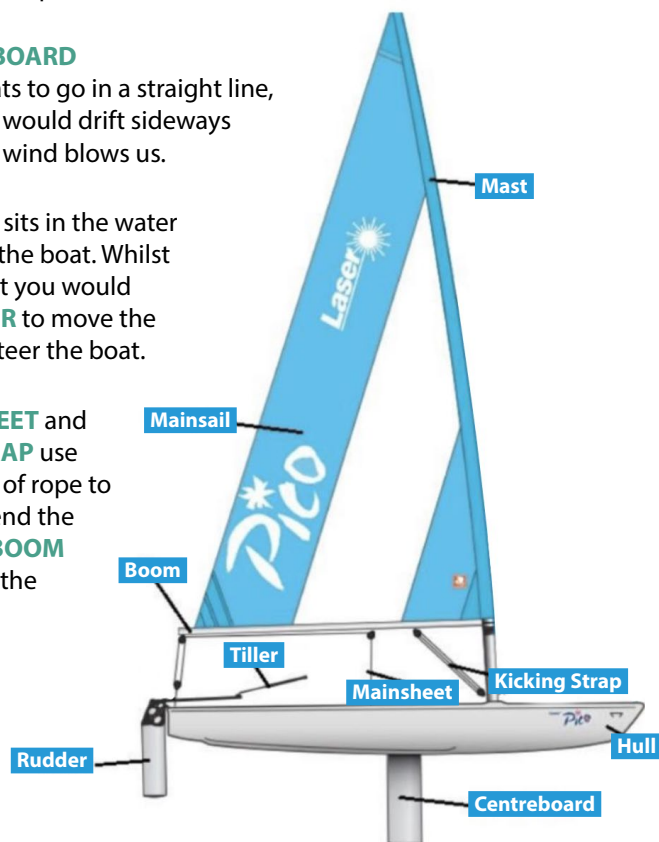
The **MAINSAIL** is there to catch the wind and make the boat zoom along in the water.

The **MAST** and **BOOM** hold the sail up in the air and spread it out to catch as much wind as possible - like a kite.

The **CENTERBOARD** helps our boats to go in a straight line, without it we would drift sideways wherever the wind blows us.

The **RUDDER** sits in the water at the rear of the boat. Whilst sat in the boat you would use the **TILLER** to move the **RUDDER** to steer the boat.

The **MAINSHEET** and **KICKING STRAP** use short lengths of rope to pull in or extend the reach of the **BOOM** to help catch the right amount of wind.



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Have a go at creating your own sailing boat

Use some recycled materials. Then test it out on the high seas such as a sink or water tray. Have a go at blowing on the sails to see how the boat moves in response to the wind you are generating.

Some top tips:

- 1 You'll need to grab an adult to help with any cutting, particularly with anything tough like plastic.
- 2 Think about how you create a stable base so that your boat does not capsize.
- 3 It is bad luck for a boat to not have a name - so be sure to give it an awesome one.

Review and reflection

Here are some questions to help you reflect on this activity. We use this kind of reflective exercise to get the most out of the activities at our centres.

Did it help to know the different parts of a boat when you were building your own sailing boat?

Did your sailing boat float? If not, what could you do to stop it from sinking?

What happens when you blow on your boat while it is floating? Does it spin around or drift along? Use the boat diagram to think about how you could make your boat go straight when the wind is blowing.

Here are a couple of versions we made

'Cork'e floats'

'Spoon Voyage'

Share your boat with us at [#outdoorcentresathome](https://twitter.com/outdoorcentresathome)