

CALIFORNIA SCIENCE & ENGINEERING FAIR 2019 PROJECT SUMMARY

Name(s)
Project Number

10309

Project Title

Rocking the Boat

Abstract

Objectives

The objective of this science project is to determine what effect a pair of bilge keels provides for the stability of a boat in water.

Methods

Two 2-liter soda bottles, rubber cement, glass marbles (50-60), one wooden dowel (1 foot long), bathtub, stopwatch, double-sided adhesive tape. After constructing the boat, I attached two 5-centimeter bilge keels under the boat and placed the boat within a bathtub of water. After three trials, I cut one centimeter off of the 5-centimeter bilge keels and recorded the total time of the oscillations and number of oscillations the boat encountered.

Results

The longer the bilge keel length, the less total time of the oscillations and the less number of oscillations encountered by the boat.

Conclusions

Repeated trials demonstrate that longer bilge keels provide better stability for a boat in water.

Summary Statement

My science project demonstrates that longer bilge keels provide better stability for a boat in water.

Help Received

I constructed the boat and performed the experimental trials myself.