

Intended for Grades: 6-8 **Estimated Time:** 30-40 min.

Lesson Title: PLACE TO PLACE-A Paper Boat Journey

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- Listen to a story to prompt thinking about “life’s travels” (ups and downs)
- Deepen understanding of the importance of challenges and overcoming obstacles.

Materials & Preparation:

8.5 x 11 paper and pencils; one per student
Directions to make a paper boat (copies to share)
Sample story (to tell)

Prep:

- Create one boat for practice and another to use with the lesson.
- Figure out a story with three obstacles.

Background Information:

The ancient *wa’a* or canoes (boats) were means of transportation over large bodies of water. Because of the great distance traveled, they must have been sailing canoes with paddling as auxiliary power, used only for brief periods, like to launch, land, or keep off a dangerous lee shore.

Even with a sufficient number of paddlers working in shifts, the amount of food and water required to provide energy for paddling two or three thousand miles would have exceeded the carrying capacity of the canoe.

Throughout Eastern Polynesia, the same basic design probably persisted throughout the era of long distance two-way voyaging. Later, with ships being as mortal as their makers, this earlier "generic" design vanished as designs evolved which were specialized to each island group. For further information on canoes, visit:

http://www.pvs-hawaii.com/canoe/canoe_evolution.htm

The sailing canoe can symbolize someone’s journey in life. These ancient navigators faced many challenges as they traveled throughout the Pacific. Deep skill and perseverance helped provide the faith that their journey would be safely completed. The boat or canoe is used here to represent the obstacles and challenges we all face in life, and the importance of recognizing the significant things we always have.

Steps:

1. Introduce that you are going to share a story about a journey on a boat or canoe. Tell students after they hear this story, they will also create their own paper boat and story.
2. Using your pre-made paper boat, tell a short story with three obstacles. For every obstacle, symbolize the challenge by tearing off a part of the boat: 1st off the front; 2nd off the back, 3rd off the sail. (See story example below.)
3. At the end of your story, your paper boat should look like a shirt. Facilitate a discussion about what were the most important things the people on the journey retained through their experiences. Discuss what it might mean to have only “the shirt on your back”.

4. Share that students will make their own boats and also write a short story. Distribute copies of the Paper Boat Directions along with paper. Review directions and ask students to help each other make their boats after they do their writing. Encourage accurate folding.
5. Before making their boats, have participants write in their journal or on folder paper a short story w/ 3 obstacles. These challenges can be something in their personal life, but students are asked to be indirect about these challenges and use nature and the elements to represent each obstacle.
6. Have students share their short stories in groups.
7. After sharing, have students write on their shirts the answers to the reflection questions below. Debrief in large group; talk about ways students have faced adversity and what's most important to maintain.

Reflection Questions:

- *What lessons did you learn from your challenges?*
- *What values keep you going?*

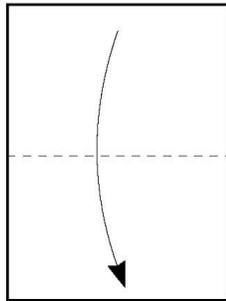
Resources:

- Immigrants information: <http://www.hawaiian-roots.com/immigrants.htm>
- <http://www.policyarchive.org/handle/10207/bitstreams/21623.pdf>

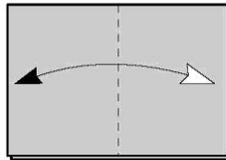
Paper Boat Directions

Boat (traditional)

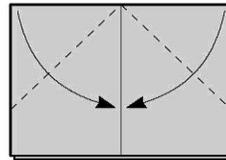
Diagrammed by: František Grebeníček (1999)
www.origami.cz



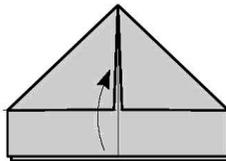
(1) Start from a rectangle (e.g. A4). Fold in half.



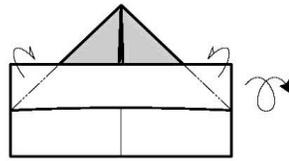
(2) Fold in half and unfold.



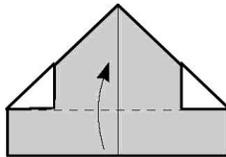
(3) Fold to the center.



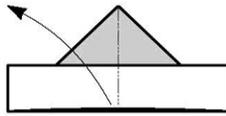
(4) Fold the overlapping strip upwards.



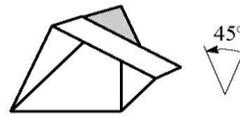
(5) Fold corners backwards. Turn over.



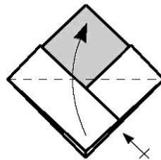
(6) Fold strip upwards.



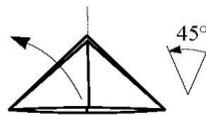
(7) Open.



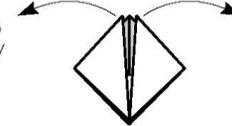
(8) Opening in progress.



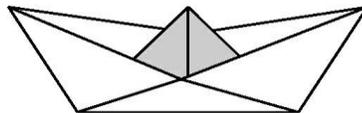
(9) Fold triangle upwards. Repeat behind.



(10) Open (like in the steps 7 and 8).



(11) Take upper corners and stretch out.



(12) Finished boat.

Sample Story:

My ohana's journey started on a sunny day with cool breezes taking us from North Shore, O'ahu and traveling to the windward side of the island. All was going well until, as we reached near Kahuku Pt., a 20 foot hammerhead shark hammered away the back part of our boat. (*Rip the back part off.*)

We were afraid, *and* we were happy the wind was in our favor and we were safe. As we continued our journey and came near Kahana Bay, we could see the Crouching Lion. The waves started to grow bigger and bigger! It was hard to see, and the front of our boat hit a reef. (*Rip the front off.*)

The water began to flood our boat, but our sail continued taking us onward. We could see our destination in the distance, the He'eia Boat Harbor. As we passed through the channel, the wind began to twist us in circles, around and around, until our sail was torn. (*Rip off the sail.*)

We luckily landed on a sandbar close to shore, thankful that we still had the shirts on our back.