

# Ships in a Jar

## Supplies:

- Clear jar
- Toothpicks (3)
- Baby oil or vegetable oil
- Blue food coloring
- Cardboard (cut into pieces)
- White packing tape
- Superglue
- Pen or pencil
- Scissors

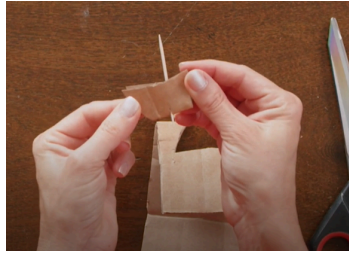


## Steps:

	<p>Step 1: Fold a small piece of cardboard in half.</p>
	<p>Step 2: At the fold in the cardboard, use a pen or pencil to draw an outline of a ship (a curved U shape).</p>
	<p>Step 3: Cut out the ship. Make sure to cut through both pieces of the cardboard so that there is a little folded ship.</p>
	<p>Step 4: Cut a small slit at the bottom of the ship, where the fold is.</p>

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Step 5: Stick a toothpick through the slit in the cardboard. This will be the mast for the sail.



Step 6: Cut a square of packing tape and fold it into a triangle. Cut off any sticky parts that remain. This is the sail.



Step 7: Use scissors to make little slits in the triangle of tape, so the sail can be attached to the toothpick.



Step 8: Attach the sail to the toothpick by threading the toothpick through the slits in the tape.



Step 9: The little ship is now complete. Repeat steps 1-8 twice more to make two more ships.



Step 10: Fill the jar a little more than halfway with water.



Step 11: Add a little blue food coloring, as desired, to the water to make it look like the ocean.



Step 12: Swirl the jar around to mix the water and food coloring.



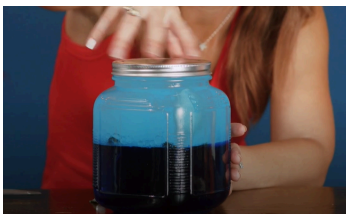
Step 13: Place the three ships in the jar.



Step 14: Fill the remainder of the jar with the baby or vegetable oil all the way to the top until no air remains in the jar.



Step 15: Put superglue around the edge of the jar.



Step 16: Screw the lid onto the jar over the glue, sealing it shut.



Step 17: Tip the jar back and forth to see the ships rocking on the stormy sea.

### **Why is Christopher Columbus so important?**

Columbus was the first explorer to open the New World in the West to colonization. His discovery is what eventually led to the founding of the United States.

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 in Genoa — now a part of Italy — and eventually moved to Spain. He learned to sail when he was a teenager and loved being at sea. In the year 1453, Europe stopped being able to trade goods with Asia through an ancient route called The Silk Road, so Christopher Columbus thought, “Why don’t I just sail to Asia so we can trade again?” He didn’t know there was land in the way.

Columbus had courage and persistence. After asking many leaders for help, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain finally gave him the go-ahead and money to take a transatlantic voyage, which set sail on August 3, 1492. Columbus took three ships — the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. Historians tell us that Columbus’ crew spotted land on October 12, 1492. He arrived in the Bahamas, which he thought was India and named the island San Salvador.

Columbus was not a perfect person, but his expeditions to the New World inspired exploration and discovery, which led Europeans to settle on new land that would eventually become our United States of America.

### **Fun Facts:**

- Leif Erikson is an explorer who discovered the continent of America hundreds of years before Christopher Columbus.
- President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared Columbus Day a holiday in 1937, which is celebrated on the second Monday of October.