



THE SIXTH FLOOR MUSEUM
AT DEALEY PLAZA

Boats

John F Kennedy is well known for being a Lieutenant on the Navy's PT-109 boat during World War II. He also loved sailing and owned many boats himself.

Design your own boat

During his lifetime, John F. Kennedy owned and sailed at least 10 boats. These range from Navy patrol boats to small sailboats all the way to his presidential yacht. Boats come in all shapes and sizes and are used for many purposes. If you could own a boat what would it look like? What would you use it for? How big would it be? What color would it be? On paper design your own boat. Don't forget details like how you would power your boat. What does this design say about you?



On water

President Kennedy were designed to sail on different bodies of water. Boats can be designed to sail down small rivers as well as vast oceans. Think about what type of boat you would like to build and design it on a piece of paper. Gather materials from your house and build your own boat. Next, find a body of water at home that the boat can float on. This can be your kitchen sink, a bathtub, or any other unique object that you can fill with water. Place your boat on the body of water and see what happens. Does it sink or float? Did you choose to power your boat or allow the water to move your boat? Did the materials you choose for your boat affect how it travels on water? Test your boat in different conditions such as making waves and adding weight for passengers to see how your results change.



Paper Boats

John F. Kennedy loved sail boats and often sailed as a teenager. Sail boats are a very popular craft that can be made out a single piece of paper, the end result can even double as a fun sailor hat. Using a single piece of printer or newspaper follow the directions [here](https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Boat) (https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Paper-Boat) to craft your own sailboat. Can you think of other ways to craft a boat out of a single sheet of paper? Were there any challenges with only using one piece of paper to make your sailboat?



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Boat Routes

Boats like the PT-109 that John F. Kennedy commanded, often had to follow strict routes to reach a specific destination. These routes could be short or could take days to complete. Think about a place you would like to visit and create a map detailing the route that your boat would take. Have an adult print out a map that includes bodies of water or make your own map! This map can include a few states, or even be as big as a world map. Draw your boat moving across bodies of water to show how it would travel. Which destinations did you choose and why? How long do you think your trip would take by boat? Why did you choose the route that you created?