

Quick guide

Age range

7+

30 mins



Outside activity



Covers topics on:

Science  
Problem-solving  
Agility

Group activity



# Float your boat

## Task

A teamwork game to explore the consequences of leaks.

## You will need

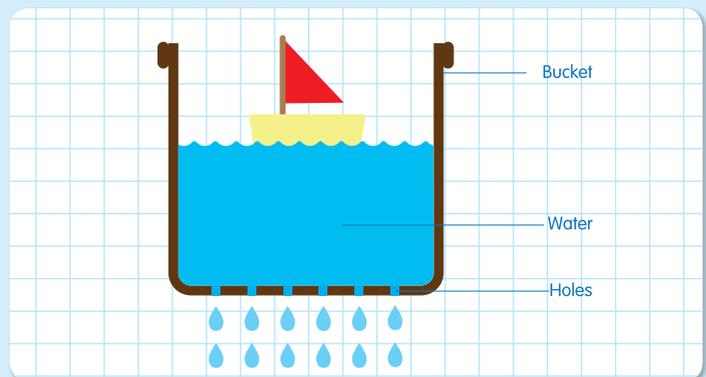
- An old bucket or large water container such as a washing-up bowl with several holes drilled in it
- A toy boat or boat made from a margarine tub
- Plastic cups

## What to do

The aim is to float the boat to the top of the bucket by filling the bucket with water.

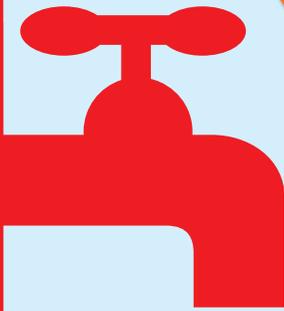
Teams have to carry water from a source several metres away and pour it into the bucket.

The best way to float the boat is if some team members plug the holes while the others carry the water.



## Fun fact

A dripping tap  
can waste 10 litres  
of water an hour



Drought conditions – as the ground dries out, pipes can move and sometimes break

Corrosion of the water main

Movement of pipelines above the ground

Change of water pressure in the main

Ground movement

Faulty or old meters or meter taps can cause leaks

Deterioration of old fittings on a main

## Leaders' notes

This exercise demonstrates how much water is wasted through leaking pipes and why it is important to fix leaks and mend dripping taps.

Southern Water's team of leakbusters work round the clock. They use special acoustic equipment to 'listen' for leaks along the company's 13,600 kilometres of water mains and make sure they're fixed promptly.

Leaks and bursts are generally the result of one of, or a combination of, the following:

## How to spot a leak

During summer, it is often an indication of an underground leak if a patch of grass remains green when surrounding grass is unwatered and goes brown.

To report a leak call

**Southern Water's Leakline number: 0800 820 999** and the leak team will fix it.