

# Maritime Mobile Activity

## Captain's Notes



### Overview

*This activity has students creating hanging mobiles. The activity will introduce students to the archaeology and history of the shipwrecks in Thunder Bay. The students will assemble the mobiles in their own way to represent the things that they learned from the activity. This is a great way for students to learn visually about shipwrecks and archaeology.*

### Difficulty/Grade Level

*Easy/Elementary K-5*

### Time

*1 Hour*

### Objectives

*To learn about Great Lakes shipwreck history and maritime archaeology*

### Skills and Strategies

- Visual Identification
- Maritime and Archaeological Vocabulary

### Materials

- Plastic straws or wooden dowels
- Scissors
- Paperclips (chain) or yarn (rigging)
- Vessel Histories (1 per student)
- Sanctuary Vocabulary sheet
- Thunder Bay Images copy (2nd side optional)
- Hole punch
- Crayons, colored pencils, markers, etc.

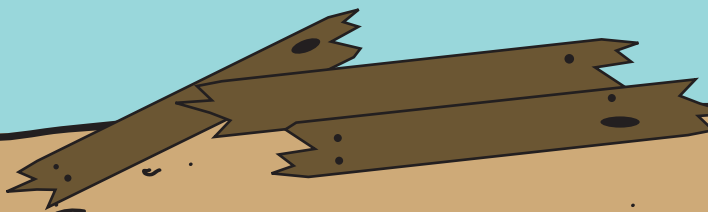
### Preparation

1. Make one copy of the Thunder Bay Images for each student on card stock.
2. If using yarn, pre-cut 10 pieces of various lengths for each student
3. If using paperclips, each student might use around 40 regular sized paperclips per mobile.

### Helpful Hints

*It may help to have all of the necessary materials ready for each student in a bag. This will keep all of the mobile pieces together and be easier to transport out of the classroom.*

*If time is a concern, you may want to pre-cut out all of the Thunder Bay images and hole punch each before the activity begins.*





## Procedures

1. Read or have the students read the vessel histories of the *E.B. Allen*, the *Nordmeer*, and the *Pewabic*.
2. Discuss the vocabulary list pointing out what they will need to know for the exercise. *Maritime Archaeology*, *SCUBA*, *ROV*, *freighter*, *schooner*, *steamer*, and *vessel*.
3. Pass out the materials to the students.
4. After the images are colored, the students will assemble their mobiles. One dowel or straw for the top level and two for the lower level.
5. Connect the second level to the first level with two paperclip chains or yarn and use the remaining paperclip chains or yarn to hang the images. Save one or two paper clips or a piece of yarn for the top hanging loop.
6. Balance the mobile by moving the paper clip chains along the straw or dowel.



## Extension

Students can learn more about Thunder Bay at [www.thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://www.thunderbay.noaa.gov) and other National Marine Sanctuaries at [www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov). These sites have interactive activities for students to learn more about the shipwrecks at Thunder Bay, but also about the need to preserve our natural and cultural heritage resources.

## Further Information

- Visit [thunderbay.noaa.gov](http://thunderbay.noaa.gov) and the Alpena County Library for information on the shipwrecks of Thunder Bay and further education.
- Visit [sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov) for information about the Maritime Heritage Program and other National Marine Sanctuaries.

## Figure It Out



## Shipwreck Challenge

Visit the National Marine Sanctuary website and make another mobile of your own. Draw pictures of some of the things you learned about other National Marine Sanctuaries for your mobile. How are other sanctuaries different than Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary?

Archaeologists use ROVs to take pictures and video of the shipwreck sites. ROVs are a very useful tool for surveying shipwreck sites. ROVs are used because they do not need air like SCUBA divers, so they can stay down on a site for a very long time.

How and why might maritime archaeologists use ROVs to study shipwrecks?

