Boat Museum, Kolkata
Activity Sheet

Located at Ambedkar Bhawan, Kolkata, the Boat Museum is one of its kind in India.

It contains 46 scale models of boats and ships dating back to the days of Indus Valley Civilization covering specifically West Bengal, and others, including Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Bangladesh.
Do you know how a boat remains afloat and sails?

**Hull**

Boats can have 3 basic types of hull:

- Flat Bottoms
- Vee Bottoms
- Round Bottoms

Hull is the main, and in some cases only, structural component of a boat. It provides both capacity and buoyancy.

**Buoyancy**

is the force that causes floating. A boat floats because, even though it weighs a lot, it displaces a huge amount of water that weighs even more. Plus, boats are designed specifically so that they will displace enough water to assure that they'll float easily.
I. Observe the following features of boats on display at the Boat Museum

1. Types of Mast

- Double Mast
- Triangular Mast
- Square Mast
- Single Mast

2. Types of Hull

- Open deck
- Flat bottom Hull
- No Cabin

3. Cabin or No Cabin

- Patia: Cabin
- Kosha: No Cabin

4. Fully/partially covered or open deck

Activity Sheet: Boat Museum, Kolkata
II. Based on above basic features of boats seen at the Museum, draw 'your kind of boat'

Sketches: The Makers Collaborative
III. Each boat is built keeping in mind the waters it will sail on & the function it will serve. Can you match the following boats with their functions?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Boat with a cue</th>
<th>Function</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Trawler</strong></td>
<td>1. to catch fish in the shallow waters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the 1990s, fishing merchants of Kakdweep fancied a Bangladeshi boat replicated the same in Kakdwip. The locals found this new model unfamiliar and gave it this foreign name!</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Salti</strong></td>
<td>2. a luxury boat one can live in</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the shallow waters of East Kolkata, wetlands, can you guess what this boat is used for?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dholai</strong></td>
<td>3. a huge fishing boat seen in Sundarbans, Diamond Harbour &amp; Kakdweep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seen in the Sundarbans, used to carry carry gol pata (Nipa fruticans) and garan kath (Ceriops roxburghiana)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Kerala Boat</strong></td>
<td>4. serves as a cargo boat in the Sundarbans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A pleasure boat seen in the backwaters of Kerala</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Boat with a cue

**Padma Boat**
One of the five boats of Rabindranath Tagore where he spent time during his visit to Silaidaha, Bangladesh. In this boat, Tagore began English translation of *Gitanjali*.

**Khorokishti**
Kisti is the Persian term for boat, while khar means straw in Bengali.

**Bhedi**
Flat-bottomed long boat that can carry a lot of weight.

**Dingee**
If you've been to Kolkata's Ghats, you must have sat in one or spotted one. It is propelled by oar.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Function</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>a passenger boat steered by oar in the weak currents of Hooghly</strong></td>
<td>Padma Boat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>passenger boat that can even carry bullock carts.</strong></td>
<td>Bhedi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>A huge cargo boat carrying straw</strong></td>
<td>Dingee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>a luxury boat for staying in</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>