

StJPII Family STREAM Challenge: Mardi Gras Shoebox Float

It's time to use STREAM creativity to celebrate Mardi Gras! Break out your recyclable and reusable materials along with your creativity to create a rolling shoebox Mardi Gras float to be part of StJPII's Mardi Gras Parade on Fat Tuesday.

STREAM Challenge: Create a rolling Mardi Gras float using a shoebox that has an attachment on the front and back of the float so it can be hooked into a float parade line.

Materials:

- Shoe Box with removable lid. An adult size shoe box is best. Please no larger than shoe box size if your family's float will be part of the school parade.

Other Materials Suggestions

- Straws, TP or paper towel tubes, etc. to hold axles
- Axle materials: Bamboo skewers, toothpicks, unsharpened pencils, etc.
- Wheel Materials: Bottle caps, CDs, sturdy cardboard, styrofoam tray, etc.
- LEGO parts
- Glue, tape, brads, etc.
- "Riders" -plastic figurines, toys, Lego people, Barbies, plastic dinosaurs, cardboard cutout like a "Flat Stanley" – whatever works with your theme!
- Decorations: Can literally be anything! Construction paper, wrapping paper, paint, beads, glitter, confetti, feathers, ribbon, pom pom balls, foam stickers, random finds from craft stashes, pipe cleaners, dry pasta, paint, and anything you have hanging around from past projects. If you use any kind of lights, they must be battery powered, safe to use on your design, and easy to access to turn on by the parade directors.

What to do

- 1) **Ask:** Define what problem you need to solve. What are the limits in solving the problem?
- 2) **Imagine:** Brainstorm (think about) ideas of what you would like your float to look like.
- 3) **Plan:** Make a sketch and come up with a solution on how to build your float. Decide what materials to use to create your float.
- 4) **Create:** Build your rolling float and decorate it. Get creative!
- 5) **Test:** Check to see if your float rolls easily with a push or pull. The float does not need to turn corners, but the wheels need to be sturdy enough for the float to roll down a hallway or sidewalk at school.
- 6) **Improve:** Adjust or change anything that is needed to make sure your float solves the STREAM challenge.
- 7) **Share:** There are two ways to share. Feel free to do one or both!
 - a) Take a picture or video of your float to share on social media using the hashtag #StJP2STREAM
 - b) Bring one family float to your teacher for it to be part of the StJPII Mardi Gras parade. Floats are due to your homeroom teacher no later than Thursday, February 16, 2023.

Need a visual to help you get started? Check out this video: <https://youtu.be/AQAK7v459-g>

Have fun and don't forget to share!