

Summer at the Library 2022

MAKE WAVES



Grades 3-5

Build the Boardwalk

Coney Island's boardwalk is a quintessential element of your trip to Brooklyn's most famous beach! Build your own boardwalk and create *the* next cultural destination in New York!

What will you learn?

- Basic engineering
- Creative expression through art
- Importance of "third space"

Materials:

- Pipe cleaners
- Popsicle sticks
- Clay or another modeling compound
- Blue construction paper
- **Optional:** Large gridded paper
- **Optional:** A pen or pencil
- **Optional:** A ruler

Instructions:

- Spread out your blue construction paper. This will serve as a work area *and* your water!
- If you'd like, use the paper, writing instrument and ruler to map out your boardwalk. What will it look like?
- It's time to start construction!
 - Use popsicle sticks and pipe cleaners as the boards of your boardwalk.
 - Use clay or another modeling compound to keep your boards together.
- While you're building your boardwalk, consider:
 - How tall will you make your boardwalk?



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- How far will your boardwalk stretch?
- How wide will your boardwalk be?
- What buildings or other attractions would you include on or at your boardwalk?
- Open the boardwalk! What does your finished product look like?

Reflection Questions:

- How did you use your materials to provide support?
- How many buildings or attractions would you like to see at your boardwalk? Why?
- How would a boardwalk impact the water it's built over?
- Have you ever visited a boardwalk before? What about the Coney Island boardwalk?
- How might marine life or the environment be impacted by building a boardwalk?

Explanation:

The Coney Island boardwalk, formally known as The Riegelmann Boardwalk, first opened in 1923! There were two further expansions in 1926 and 1941 to add many of the comforts we know today like restrooms and beach pavilions. The boardwalk connects a number of attractions and amusement parks like Luna Park, Steeplechase Park and Dreamland. The boardwalk's long history and location made it *the* place to be since it opened: it represented a place that is often called a "third space." Third spaces are places that are both not work or home and are places where community gathers and relationships are formed. The boardwalk was so popular it became known as Main Street, replacing the neighborhood's actual main thoroughfare, Surf Avenue.

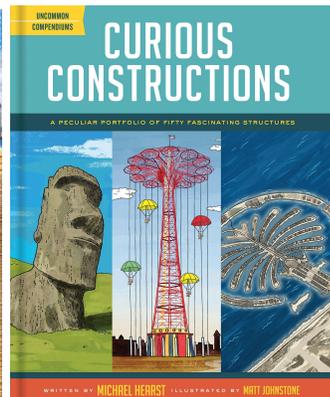
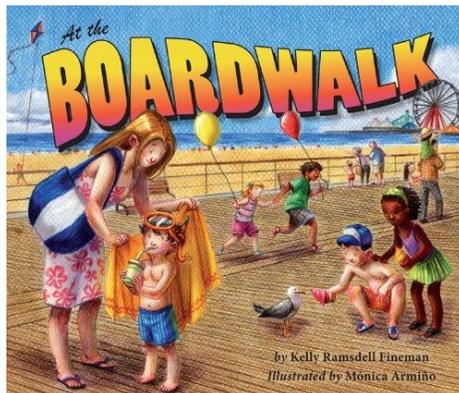
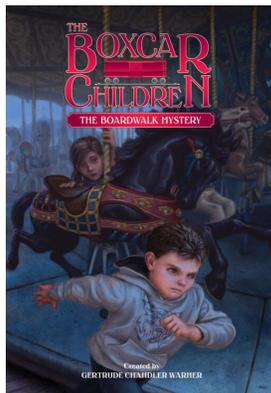
Your boardwalk will be totally unique to the design you create! The water and sand play a large role in how your boardwalk will be anchored in its place. The structure of the boardwalk is dependent on the materials available and the layout of the land and water impacted. When boardwalks are constructed, efforts can be made to minimize the environmental impact of the structure! Natural materials can be used (like wooden boards) as well as colors that blend into the environment. Care can be taken to avoid large or old trees or important, endangered, or rare vegetation. While this doesn't seem to be important when it comes to a beach, it's always something to consider before building a structure!



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More to Explore at the Library:

Take a stroll along the boardwalk and grab one of these fun titles for your next beach read!



Guide created by Alexandria Abenshon.