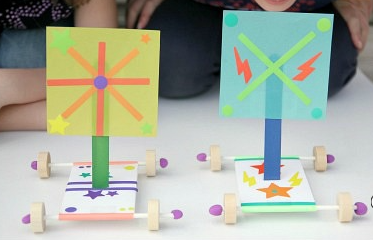


**Wind Cars**

**3-5**

**Estimated Time**: 40 minutes

# **Materials (per team):**

* 4 wooden wheels
* 1 pre-cut piece of cardboard
* 2 lollipop sticks
* 2 straws
* Tape
* 1 large popsicle stick
* 1 piece of card stock

# **Instructions:**

1. Divide into teams of 4 and give all of the listed supplies to each of the teams.
2. Provide teams with a brief description and an example picture of how the cars are constructed. They should have approximately 20-25 minutes of construction time.
   * Slit a cut into the center of the cardboard for the mast
   * Cut the straws and tape it to the bottom of the cardboard
   * Put the lollipop sticks through the straws with wooden wheels connected to the ends
   * Tape the mast and sail together and mount it on the base
3. After construction is complete teams will be given the opportunity to race across the length of a table by blowing on the sail while making sure to give each team member a chance to participate in a race.

# **Possible Variations:**

* If wheels don’t stay in place, playdough can be used as shown in the picture
* The number of races/car modifications will depend on time

# **Science Behind the Project:**

Humans have been harnessing wind energy for thousands of years. Wind-powered devices convert kinetic energy in the wind into other more useful forms of energy. Sailboats convert the wind's kinetic energy to kinetic energy for transportation.