

# TRIANGLES

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Would those strange, triangular things that Fred had seen in the dive shop, be the solution to moving underwater? Fred was convinced that they would know if they tried it.



swim faster underwater. He could almost keep up with a fish.

“That’s it!” he shouted as he emerged from the water. But Fred was less enthusiastic.

“How will you pick things up?” he asked.

At home, in the back of the garden, they made two large triangles from a sturdy, plastic plate. They went to the lake to figure out how to use them. At the waterfront they discussed what they could do with them. Skubba proposed to put them on his hands. He put his fingers through the holes and Fred tied his hands with a piece of rag to the two plates. He felt like a seal clapping his front flippers. Would this work?

He first tried to swim on the surface. If he could do that, he would try it underwater. Unfortunately, he did not swim very far. At least, not without difficulty. When he explained to Fred that this idea was not a success, he stumbled. He struggled to keep up straight. When he finally stood again, he noticed that he had moved backwards. Fred had seen it too.

“Maybe you need to swim backwards with them?” he shouted.

“I will try!” Skubba replied.

He lay on his back in the water and moved his arms. And yes, he swam backwards.

“It works!”

“Yes, I see that, but you can’t see where you’re going! Be careful!” yelled Fred. Too late. Skubba bumped into a piece of wood floating around.

“Ow!” That hurt, but it showed that Fred was right. This was not a good solution.

“If you lay in the water on your belly with your arms to your side, then you should be able to swim by moving your arms,” Fred explained. “And you will be able to see where you swim to.” That did indeed work. Skubba could even

Like a seal, Skubba couldn’t hold on to anything. And to grab something with his mouth was not a solution either. He could now swim faster, but he was still clumsy.

“What if we attached those triangles to your feet instead of your hands? Then you could use your hands to hold onto things,” Fred thought out loud. This made sense to Skubba, so he came out of the water.

Attaching the triangles to his feet was not easy. Yes, they were able to attach them, but as soon as he started walking with them on, he fell to the ground, or he lost a triangle. After a while, Fred suggested to walk backwards. This way stopped him falling, but the triangles still came loose.

They decided to go back to their little workshop at home to think it over.

“What are you thinking of?” asked Skubba.

“On how we can firmly fix those triangles to your feet,” replied Fred.

In the garden shed, they found an old pair of sandals. Fred decided to attach the triangles to the sandals with some screws and bolts. The thick rubber soles protected Skubba’s feet against the sharp edges of the screws. Walking was easier and he no longer lost a triangle.

Unfortunately, by the time they had fixed them, it was too dark to go back out and try them out underwater. Testing them would have to wait until the following day.

Yes, tomorrow Skubba will be a real diver!