

MAKE YOUR OWN

Reed boats were made out of the reeds of a papyrus plant. Because the reeds were bundled together, the ends of the boat curved up. Most ancient Egyptians used reed boats. Wooden boats were expensive. This is because there weren't many trees in the desert, and the trees that were there didn't make good planks. Wood had to come from other countries. Here's a way to make a model of a reed boat that really floats. You will be using spray paint for this project, so you'll need a grownup around.

1 Pinch one end of a straw and put it into the end of another straw. Make sure the bendable parts of the straws are at the outside ends. Do the same thing with the other straws. When you're done, you should have ten long straws.

2 Lay all the straws flat next to each other. Right now, your boat will look kind of like a raft.

3 Wrap a piece of duct tape around the middle.

4 At the flexible parts, bend the straws up. The boat will now be crescent-shaped. Pinch the ends of the straws together and tie them with a piece of string. Be sure to tie them tightly so the string doesn't slip off. Cut off any extra string.

5 Wrap a piece of duct tape around each bendy part of the straws. The tape will help your boat keep the right shape.

6 Follow the instructions on the spray paint can to paint your boat. Let it dry. Now, you're ready to put your reed boat in some water and watch it float!

Supplies

20 flexible drinking straws
duct tape
string or yarn
scissors
brown spray paint



REED BOAT



JUST FOR LAUGHS

Q • What do you call a folder where you keep pictures of Ancient Egypt?

A: A Nile file!

COOL ARTIFACT

The ancient Egyptians put a boat or a model of a boat into every tomb. This is because they believed the spirit needed a boat to travel into the afterlife.

