

Art Activity

Construct an Egyptian-Inspired Paper Boat



Take & Make: Construct an Egyptian-Inspired Paper Boat

Grade Level: All

Collection: African Art, Ancient Art

Culture/Region: Ancient Egyptian

Subject Area: Fine Arts, Visual Arts

Activity Type: Hands-On Activity

Description: Construct your own paper-boat model inspired by boats of ancient Egypt.



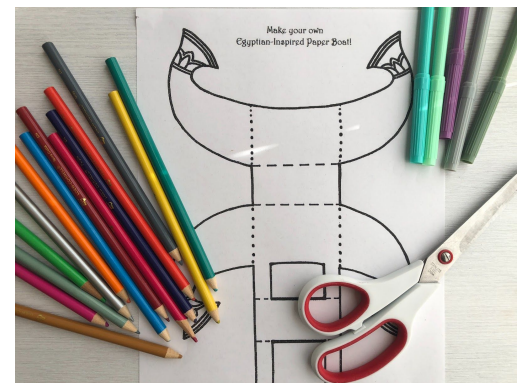
The Nile is a river in Africa that flows from south to north, beginning in Uganda and ending in Egypt. It runs for over 4,000 miles, making it the longest river in the world! Most ancient Egyptians lived along the banks of the Nile. The river gave them water to drink, fish to eat, and a place to wash. Every spring, snow melting from the mountains of Uganda flowed into the Nile causing it to flood. The flood water made the land fertile and good for farming.

The Nile was like a 'super highway' that stretched up and down Egypt. Ancient Egyptians used boats to travel along the Nile. The earliest Egyptian boats were made of reeds bound together. There were different boats for fishing, transporting goods, and carrying passengers. Special boats were used to carry the bodies of the royal family and wealthy people to their tombs. The ancient Egyptians even believed that the sun god, Re, traveled across the sky each day by boat!

Now it's your turn to make an Egyptian-inspired paper boat!

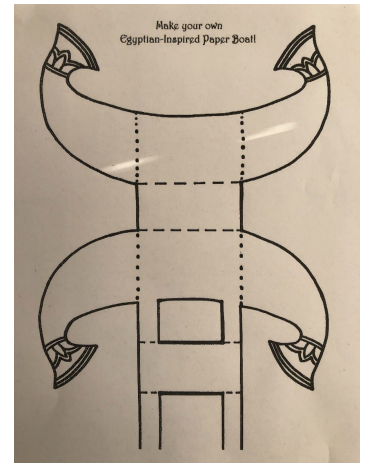
Materials:

- Paper boat template (this can be found on our Egypt Family Day page)
- Printer paper (one sheet for printing the boat template)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Crayons, colored pencils, or markers

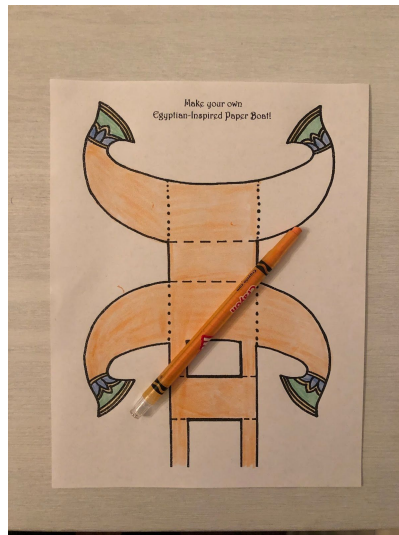


Constructing your Paper Boat:

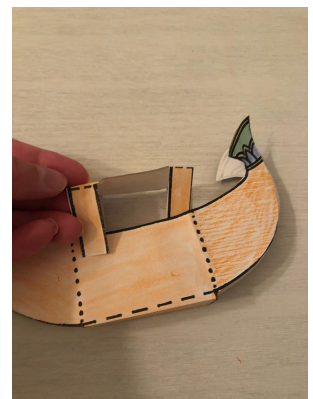
1. Be inspired by ancient Egyptian Boats, what they looked like, and how they were used. You can read about ancient Egyptian Boats in the information provided above. You can also explore inspired works from VMFA's permanent collection below.
2. Print the boat template provided on VMFA's Egypt Family event page. You can print this template on one piece of 8.5x11 printer paper. **Optional:** If you would rather print this template on a piece of colored paper or a heavier weighted paper, that is fine too. Please note, if using a heavier weighted paper, you may need to use tape instead of glue when assembling.



3. Once you have printed the boat template color your boat; add any designs or patterns desired.
4. Next, cut along the bold lines of the boat template.



5. After you have cut out your boat template, now it is time to fold your template to form your boat.
6. First, crease slightly along the dotted lines (.....).
7. Next, fold along the dashed lines (-----)



8. Tape (or glue) the top covering to the middle of the boat.



9. Tape (or glue) the sides of the boat together at the ends. This is to ensure your boat is securely assembled. If using glue, let dry.



10. Display your boat or create a scene for it. Can you make a story about how your boat would be used? Who would have used your boat? Let your imagination run wild!



Be Inspired by VMFA's Collection!



Boat Model, 2010 - 1961 BC

Unknown Artist

Egyptian

Wood coated with plaster, painted

Egyptian Gallery

53.30.3

Information: Miniatures showing scenes of daily life were often placed in tombs during the Middle Kingdom. The large number of boat models reflects the Nile's importance in Egyptian life: the river was Egypt's main road and main source of food (fish and waterfowl).

Boats were also important in funerary rituals and myths. A burial usually included two or more boat models, at least one rigged for sailing (south,

upstream on the Nile) and another for rowing (north, downstream). This model comes from the tomb of Djehuty-nakht, which contained fifty-five boat models, probably the largest group found in any Middle Kingdom tomb.



Vessel, 3650-3300BC

Unknown Artist

Egyptian

Polychromed terracotta

Egyptian Gallery

L.27.41.48

Information: The use of red paint over a white slip became fashionable around 3500 BC, replacing polished red ware as the primary luxury ceramic. Vessels with scenes of daily life—here a boat with animals and plants—were particularly rare and valuable.