

Make a boat for the Nile

The Nile was Egypt's highway. There weren't any roads or bridges in Egypt so boats were used for transport. Everything including mummies could be carried in them. The first boats were made from reeds or papyrus and these were commonly used in the shallow marshy water. They were called feluccas.



Here's how to make a felucca just like the ancient Egyptians.

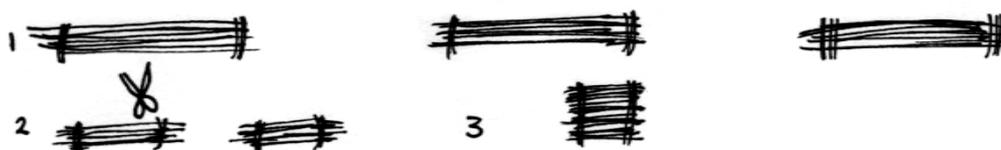
Materials you need

- One bunch of straw cut to 30 cm lengths
- String
- Glue
- Bamboo skewers
- Optional square of linen or canvas
- Plasticine or modelling clay

Method

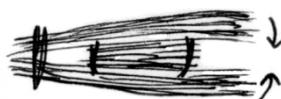
Step 1

Make up three bundles of straw to two centimetres thickness each. Tie each bundle separately at both ends. Cut one bundle in half so you have two 15 centimetre lengths. Tie the loose ends together. Place the shorter bundles firmly together and tie at the top and the bottom again. This will become the base of the boat.



Step 2

Take the two long bundles and tie them together at one end. Wedge the shorter bundles between the longer ones, pushing them firmly together. Put ties across the boat at two centimetre intervals all the way to the end to hold securely.



Step 3

Attach a string to one end of the boat, thread it through the middle tie and loop it around the other end. Pull the string to make your boat curve. Secure the other end when you have the shape you want.



Make an oar by cutting a bamboo skewer in half and decorating with a blob of plasticine or modelling clay. Construct rigging with bamboo skewers and glue a square of linen or canvas to the skewer to make a sail. Model figures to steer or sit in your boat.

