

Kids Explore!



Make a Bark Boat

Use natural materials to make a floating boat!

Materials

- ◆ Large piece of bark that has fallen off a tree (4-5 inches long, although really could be any size)
- ◆ A large leaf
- ◆ A stick
- ◆ Sharp scissors or a screwdriver or strong stick
- ◆ Natural clay (optional)
- ◆ Decorations — lichen, moss, flower petals, feathers, more leaves, etc (optional)
- ◆ Passengers for your boat — acorns, filberts, pebbles, etc. (optional)

1. Go on a walk in a nearby natural area or a park (or poke around in your yard) and look for a fallen piece of tree bark. This will be the body of your boat.

2. Now look for a sail. A big leaf will work well.

3. Finally find yourself a stick to be your mast.

4. Poke a hole in your bark with sharp scissors, a screwdriver, or a strong stick. Do this carefully so you don't split your bark.

5. Find a tall stick that will fit snugly into the hole in your bark. If you want to make this extra secure, use some natural clay to keep the mast attached.

6. Now gently poke holes in your leaf and weave it onto your stick mast. Sometimes this is hard and your leaf might rip. This is okay. Just find a another leaf!

7. Decorate your small craft with natural things that you find on your walk or in your yard like petals, lichen, moss, seeds, or more leaves.

8. Once your boat is finished, try floating it in a small container of water or in a wading pool. If it tips over, adjust your sail by tilting it in different directions.

9. Once your boat stays upright, add passengers — pebbles, nuts, or something else you want to give a ride.

10. If you're out on a nature adventure, float your boat in a creek, river, or pond. Remember, if you launch your boat in moving water, it may take off on its own adventure!

11. For even more fun, have a friend create a boat at the same time and have a race!

