

Teeny Tiny Twig Rafts



You will need

- Scissors
- String
- Natural Materials (Twigs, Leaves etc.)

Before you begin

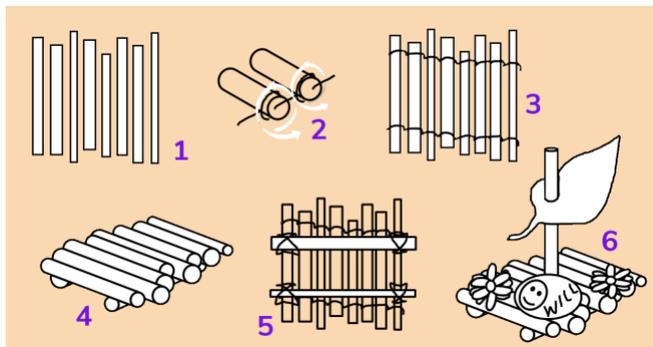
It might be a good idea to go for a walk to a local park or woodland to collect a selection of small twigs to make your raft, but remember to only collect twigs from the ground.

You will need 8 twigs of the same length, 2 slightly longer twigs and 1 long thin twig (for the mast).

You also will need a large leaf for the sail.

Have a go

1. Line up the 8 twigs of the same size – this is the deck of your teeny tiny twig raft.
2. Fasten the a piece of string to the end of a twig.
3. Wind the string around the end of each twig, following an under and over pattern, going under the first twig and over the second twig.
4. When you reach the final twig, fasten off the string with a knot – a Clove Hitch Knot works well.



5. Repeat steps 2 to 4 on the other ends of the twigs.
6. Lay the long sticks along the length of the raft and use more string to attach the deck of the raft to them.
7. Turn the raft over and carefully slot the thin twig between deck twigs in the centre of the raft. Attach a leaf as a sail.

Additional Information

Test your raft in a large bucket of water or even a paddling pool. Think if it needs any adjustments and then you could take it to a local pond to see if it floats!

If you make two rafts, you can race them to see which one is the best design.



Reflection

This activity will help you to value the great outdoors.

- Did you enjoy being outdoors to gather the twigs for your raft?
- Was it easy or difficult to find the materials for your raft?
- Was it difficult to make your raft?
- What would you do differently if you made another raft?
- Did it float well – if not how did you solve the problem?
- Why was it important to take your raft home again and not leave it in a pond?
- Consider – if you were going to make a raft big enough to carry a person, what materials would you use?



Safety

Near water – Be very careful if you sail your raft in open water or a large pond.

Make sure an adult accompanies you - better still get them to make a raft too.

Take care when using scissors or ask for help from an adult.

All Activities are taken from the Scout Association's Great IN Doors programme.