

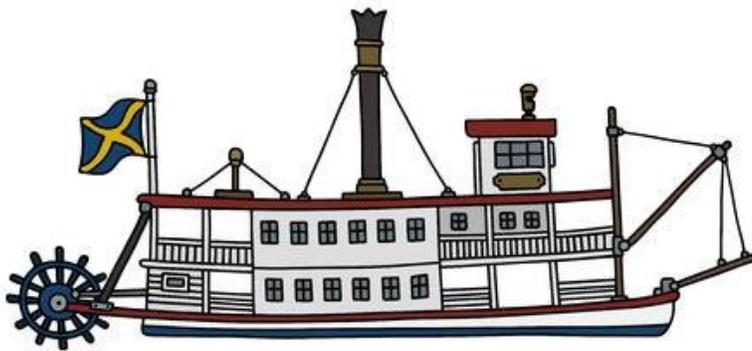


Museum of the Cape Fear presents

Preschool Pals Virtual Program

Preschool Pals is geared for ages 3 to 5. The virtual program is a kit that includes the same kind of activities that children would do at the museum. Each kit requires adult supervision and assistance.

(Adults, read the following to the children or if they can read, have them read it to you.)



The theme for this Preschool Pals Virtual Program is steamboats. Steamboats traveled up and down the Cape Fear River for a long time. This was before cars and trucks were invented. If you wanted to go to Wilmington from Fayetteville, you could buy a ticket and ride on a

steamboat. Steamboats that went up and down on the river had names, such as the *Henrietta*, the *A. P. Hurt*, and even, the *Cape Fear*.

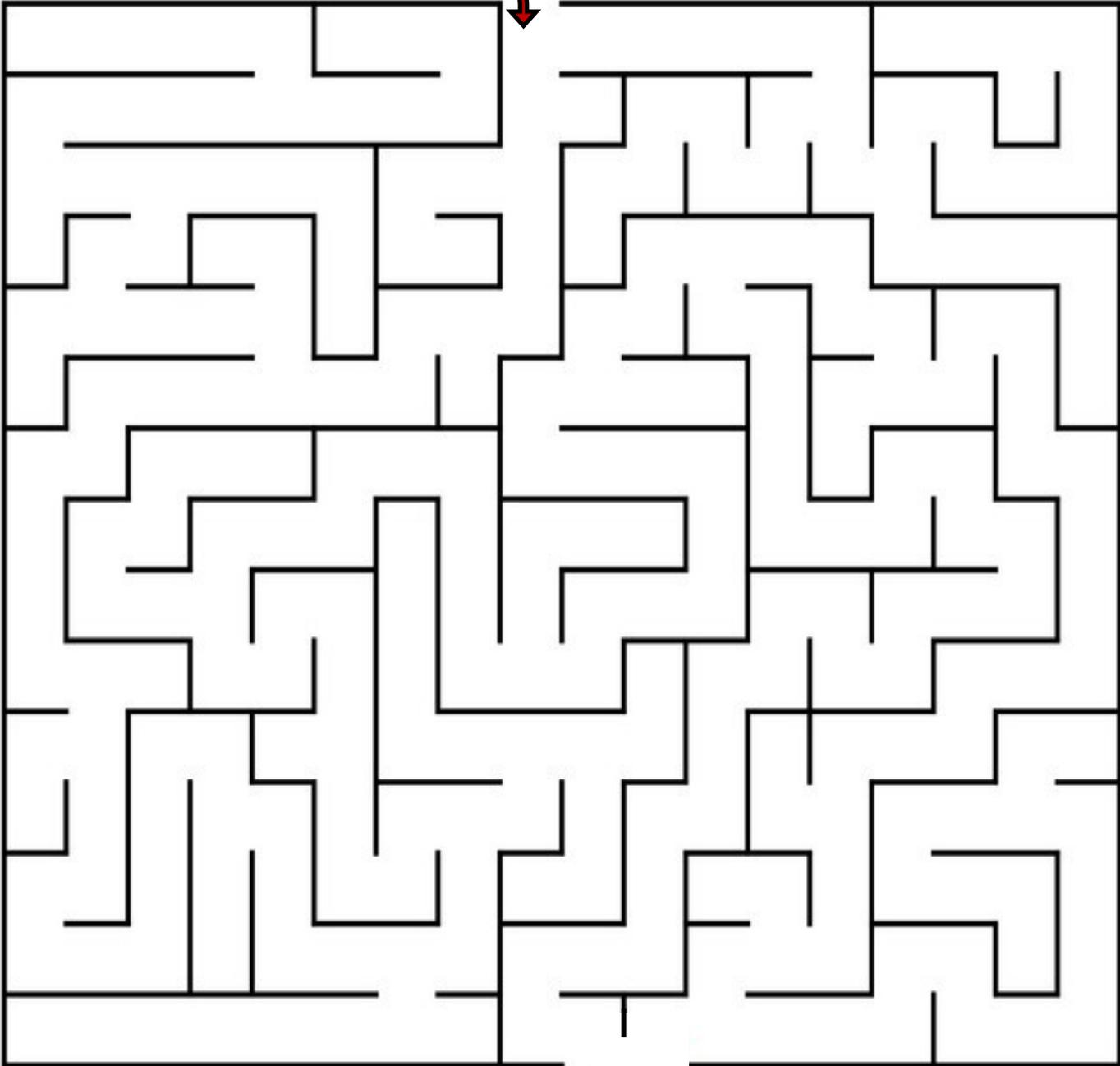
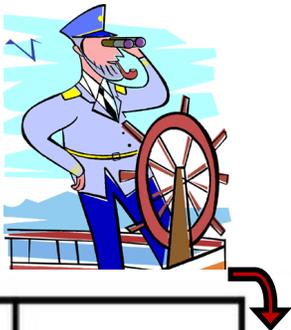
Included in this virtual kit:

- A maze activity sheet you can print
- A short story to read to the child(ren)
- Instructions for a craft
- A song for a sing-along
- Bonus: a link to a 1928 Mickey Mouse cartoon, "Steamboat Willie."

Supplies you need:

- Cardboard
- Colored duct tape
- Scissors
- Rubber bands

Can you find the path to the steamboat for the captain.



Danny Rides on a Steamboat

An original story by Leisa Greathouse
Curator of Education at the Museum of the Cape Fear
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Seven year old Danny was excited that this day finally arrived. Danny lived in Fayetteville, and this was the first time he would accompany his father, Captain Dan, on a trip to Wilmington by steamboat. Danny's father was captain of the steamboat called *Cape Fear*. Danny and his mother rode a horse and buggy to the river dock where Captain Dan was waiting. Danny grabbed the bag his mother packed and ran toward the boat.

"Slow down Danny," said his father, who saw him get out of the buggy. "If you trip, you might fall into the river."

Danny made it to the boat without tripping. His father helped him aboard. Danny's mother stood on the dock and waved good-bye to her husband and son.

"See you tomorrow," she said as she blew them a kiss."

"Ok Danny. Let's take your bag to the cabin and I'll show you around the boat."

Nearby was one of the ship's hands named John. "John, untie the boat and let's be underway," said Capt. Dan. "We need to make Wilmington before night fall and we have several stops to make along the river."

"Aye, aye Cap'n," said John.

"Danny," said his father, "there are lots of hazards on a boat like this, so you have to always watch your step. There is a lot of cargo on board and a few passengers in the upper deck cabins. I need you to be on your best behavior."

"What kind of cargo Dad?"

"You see some bales of cotton, don't you?"

"Yes. But what is in all those wooden boxes?"

"We call those wooden boxes crates, and they have all kinds of things in them. There is food in some, and in others there are household goods, like candles, cloth, and nails."



“What are you going to do with it all,” asked Danny with a puzzled look?

“We are going to take it to Wilmington. The cotton bales will be loaded aboard a larger ship and taken to a factory. It’s about time to blow the whistle. Would you like to do that Danny?”

“Sure! Where is the whistle?”

“It’s up top, but the rope to pull it is in the pilot house. Let’s go.”

Danny and his father made their way to the pilot house at the top of the boat. Danny had never been that high. At first he thought he might be afraid, but the stairs to reach the top were easy to climb. In the pilot house, Danny saw a long rope and he couldn’t wait to pull it.

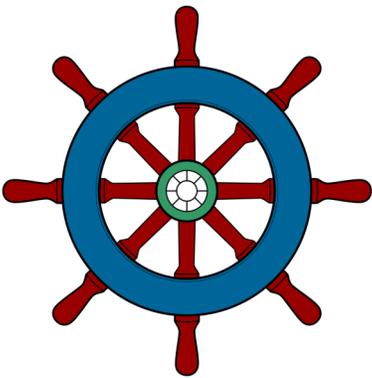
“There it is Danny. Now, when the boat gets around this next corner, pull the rope.”

“Okay Dad. I’m ready.”

Danny was so anxious to pull the rope that it seemed like forever before the boat turned the corner.

“Now!” said Danny’s father, and Danny tugged the rope and he could hear the whistle blow. (Click [Listen](#). A website will open and just click the play ► button to hear a steamboat whistle.) “Can I blow it again?”

“Not now Danny. We only blow the whistle when we are getting ready to make a stop along the river. It lets the people in the next village know we are close to arrival.



Standing in the pilot house was George, the boat’s pilot.

“George, this is my son Danny. I’m going to show him around the boat. If you need anything, just yell for me.”

“Aye, aye Cap’n,” said George.

Danny and his father strolled along the upper deck greeting passengers who were standing outside their cabins enjoying the river breeze. When they got to the lower deck, Captain Dan reminded Danny to be careful and watch his step. “There are lots of ropes lying around Danny, and it’s easy to stumble when you are not used to being aboard a steamboat.”



“Okay Dad, I’ll be careful.”

It was late in the afternoon and Danny and his Dad sat on a crate and watched the river get wider the closer they got to Wilmington. Captain Dan was explaining the parts of the boat to Danny. “The front of a boat is called the bow. Do you know what the back of the boat is called?”

“No, what’s it called?”

“It’s called the stern. This boat is a stern-wheel steamboat because the paddle wheel is located at the stern of the boat. Some steamboats have the paddle wheel on the side. Those are called side-wheel steamboats.”

“Look Dad! I see the docks in Wilmington. We’re almost there!”

“It’s time to get ready to dock the boat and unload the cargo and the passengers.”

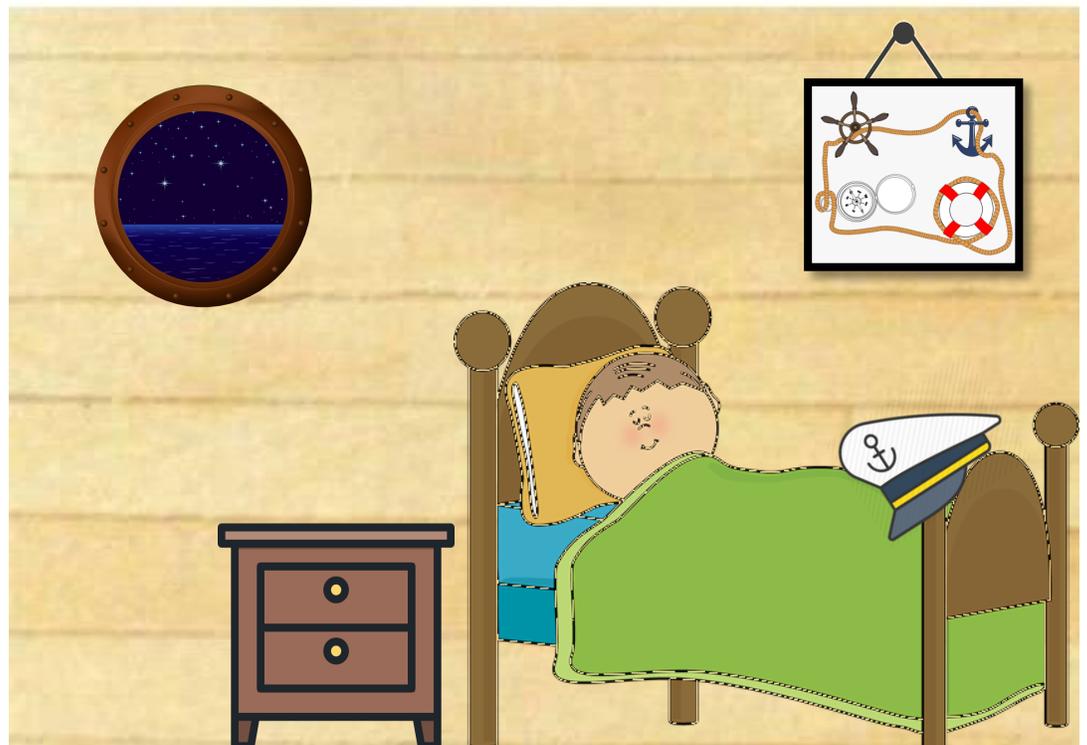
“Can I help Dad?”

“This is a learning trip for you. Find a safe, out of the way place to watch and learn, and maybe next time you can help.”

Danny leaned up against the wall of the Captain’s cabin and watched the crew hard at work unloading the boat’s cargo. The passengers went ashore first. It was early evening and getting dark. The crew took all cargo off the boat, and loaded new cargo to take to Fayetteville.

After dinner, Danny’s father took him to bed in the Captain’s cabin. His first trip on a steamboat was everything he hoped it would be and he had the best night’s sleep he ever had.

The End



CRAFT TIME

Activity — Make a paddle boat

Supplies Needed:

- Cardboard
- Colored duct tape
- Scissors
- Rubber bands

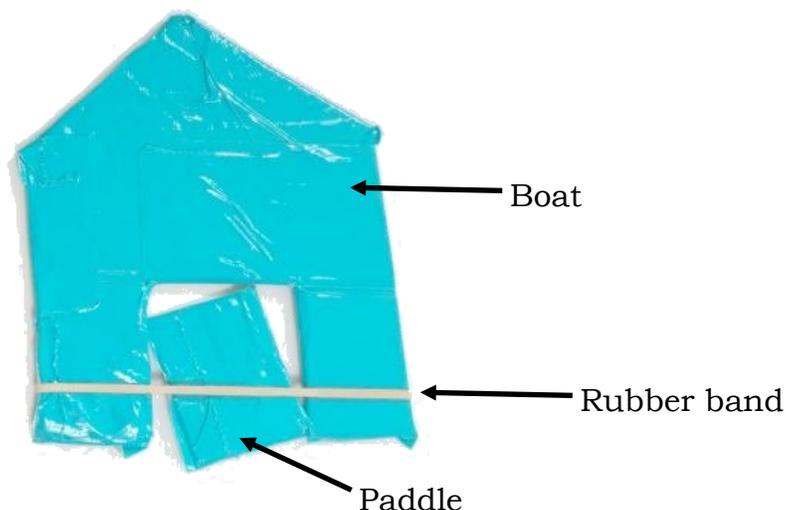
Instructions:

The pattern for the boat and the paddle are on the next page. Cut out the pattern, trace it on a piece of cardboard at least 4 inches wide. If your cardboard is already four inches wide, then no need to cut out the edges. Cut out the cardboard to match the pattern. The smaller square in the bottom middle, will be the paddle. Once you cut out the paddle, trim each side so that it moves freely within the empty space from where you cut it.

Wrap the cardboard with the duct tape. If you are making more than one, you can use different color tape, or use a waterproof marker to write names on the boats.

Put a rubber band around the boat as shown in the example and make sure the paddle wheel is also between the rubber band. Hold the boat so that the pointed end, the bow, is away from you. Turn the paddle toward the bow of the boat multiple times so the rubber band gets in a twist. (Same principle of the wind-up airplanes.) Hold the paddle so the rubber band doesn't untwist before you set it in the water.

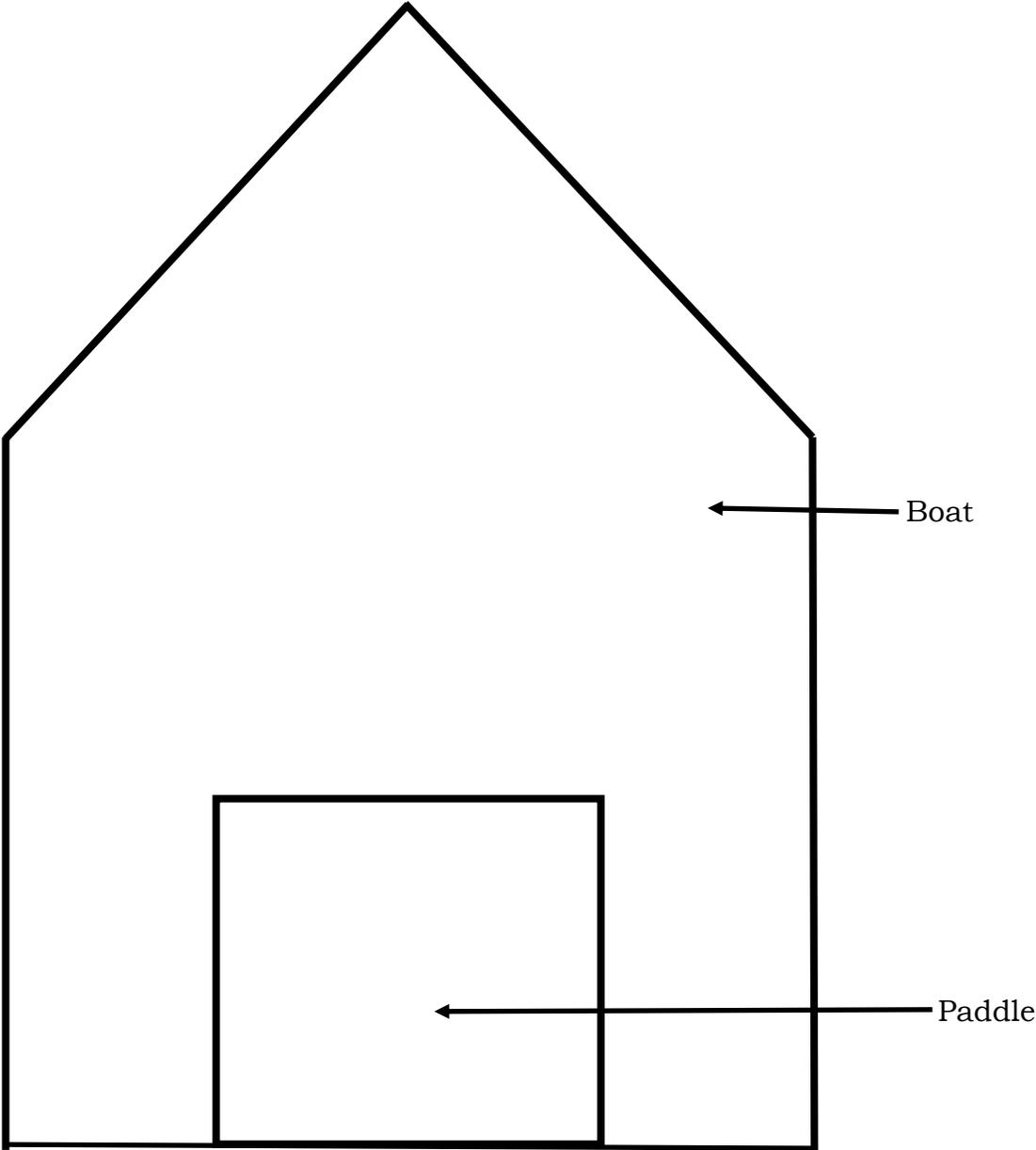
Your boat is now ready for the water. You can use a toy pool or your bathtub. You can race them too.



Tips:

- If you turn the paddle toward you to twist the rubber band, the boat will go backwards in water.
- Make sure you tape the cardboard so it is waterproof. If water seeps in, the cardboard becomes soggy and not work well.

Paddle Boat Pattern



Time to Sing-Along

Sing the following lyrics to the tune of “Wheels On The Bus.”

Paddles on the boat go round and round,
round and round, round and round.

Paddles on the boat go round and round,
till it gets to town.

The whistle on the boat goes toot, toot, toot.

Toot, toot, toot. Toot, toot, toot.

The whistle on the boat goes toot, toot, toot,
till it gets to town.

The captain of the boat yells, “Ahoy there mate.

Ahoy there mate. Ahoy there mate.”

The captain of the boat yells, “Ahoy there mate,
when he gets to town.



Mickey Mouse Steamboat Willie 1928

Adults, for more steamboat fun, the child(ren) may enjoy this 1928 Mickey Mouse cartoon playing the character of “Steamboat Willie.” The video is only 52 seconds long. (There is a six-second pause before the title shows and the video begins to play.)

<https://youtu.be/iep9EJ9H1aU>

We hope you enjoyed this virtual program. Look for other educational activities and opportunities on the museum's website [here](#). If you discover any errors, such as typos or broken internet links, please notify the museum as soon as possible so corrections can be made before the next adult and child make use of it. Thank you.



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