

Boats were the most important means of transportation in ancient Egypt. This model of a boat, complete with its crew, was placed in an ancient Egyptian tomb to insure that the deceased would have transportation in the afterlife.



***Model Boat.*** Egypt, Middle Kingdom (2134–1784 B.C.).  
Gift of Henry H. Getty, Charles L. Hutchinson,  
Robert H. Fleming, and Norman W. Harris.

## Types of Transportation



- What is this? What are these people doing? What is this made out of? How does this boat move?
- Boats were the most important means of transportation in ancient Egypt, moving people and goods up and down the Nile.
- Have you ever been on a boat? How big was the boat? How did the boat move? Ask a family member about an experience on a boat. Share stories with classmates.
- What types of transportation are in your community?
- The oarsmen on this model boat were paid workers. Have students discuss transportation jobs in our society. What skills are needed by the different people?
- Have students draw a picture or write a letter to a bus driver at your school.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 16, 25, 26, 27

## Tomb Objects



- Discuss the ancient Egyptian practice of placing objects like this model boat in tombs for use in the afterlife.
- Assign the exercise of loading an ancient Egyptian tomb with objects that were needed to live a full, productive afterlife. Have each student select one object from the categories of buildings, food and drink, animals, people, and entertainment to create in clay.
- Display the objects around the classroom and discuss how each object was of value to the ancient Egyptians.

Illinois State Goals: 4, 16, 25, 26, 27

Lines,  
Shapes,  
Colors

Animals

Transportation

Home

Play

Who is in this boat?

