

Boats and Farming Tools

Week 2 • Wednesday • Clever Inventions on the Nile

Reading Time

The Nile was ancient Egypt's highway! There were no cars or trains, so Egyptians traveled by **boat**. Their first boats were made from bundles of a river plant called **papyrus**. Later, they built big wooden ships with sails to carry stone, grain, and animals up and down the river.

Here is a clever trick: the river's current flows north, but the wind usually blows south. So Egyptians floated north with the current, and raised their sails to ride the wind back south. The river worked like a two-way road!

Farmers were clever too. They dug **canals** to carry river water to their fields. They invented the **shaduf** — a long pole with a bucket on one end — to lift water from the river. Some of these tools are still used today!

Reading Questions

1. How did Egyptians travel up and down the Nile?

2. What was a shaduf used for?

3. How did boats travel south, against the current?

Vocabulary Grid

Write what each word means in your own words.

papyrus

shaduf

canal

current

sail

harvest

Match the Tool to Its Job

Draw a line or write the letter that matches each tool to its job: A = carry people and goods, B = lift water from the river, C = bring water to fields, D = catch the wind.

Tool	Job (A, B, C, or D)
Shaduf	
Boat	
Canal	
Sail	

Hands-On: Build a Shaduf Model

You need: a pencil (the pole), string, a small paper cup (the bucket), and a stack of books (the stand).

Tie the cup to one end of the pencil with string. Rest the pencil's middle on the book stack. Push down on the free end — watch the bucket lift! That is how Egyptians lifted water from the Nile.

• **Draw It!**

Draw an Egyptian boat with a sail on the Nile, or a farmer using a shaduf.



Think About It

1. Why do you think the Nile was called Egypt's 'highway'?
