



How to make

Paper Boats

IMA AT HOME



Prau boat. Source: Wikimedia Commons.

Muslim Makassan fishermen from Southern Sulawesi made annual visits to Australia from at least the 17th century. They travelled on a small boat called *perahu*. Pictures of these boats have been found in Aboriginal rock art across the Northern Australian coast.

Learn to make a boat that looks like the one used by the Makassans when they made their voyage to Australia.

You will need:

- **Piece of A4 paper**

1) Take your A4 piece of paper and lay it vertically (so that the long sides of the page are on the left and right). Fold it in half to create a sharp crease, and then unfold.

2) Turn your piece of paper 90 degrees (so that the long sides of the page are on the top and bottom). Fold the page in half horizontally. You should now have two creases that make a cross on your page.

3) Take the top left and top right corners and fold them down towards the middle of the page. Make sure the folds line up with the centre crease. Leave a 2cm gap at the bottom.

4) Fold the 2cm gap of paper upwards so that it sits flush with the bottom of the 2 folded triangles. Turn the paper over and do the same thing to the flat on that side. The 2 folds should line up with each other.

5) Grab the corners of the rectangle that are sticking out over the triangle. Fold these parts over the edges of the triangle to make creases. Then, fold the bottom flaps around the edges of the triangle and back towards you.

6) Pick up your triangle and gently use your fingers to pry the triangle open from the bottom. Gently pull on the paper until it forms a square shape. Make sure the bottom corners of the triangle fold over each other and become the bottom corner of a diamond.

7) Position your paper on a 45-degree angle. The bottom part of your diamond should have the extra folds. Take the bottom corner and fold upwards to align with the top corner. Flip the paper and do the same thing on the other side.

8) Turn the triangle into a square again by repeating step 6.

9) Position your paper on a 45-degree angle again. Gently pull out the triangles on the left and right sides. The crease running down the centre of your paper will 'bloom' and open up.

10) Now it's time to float your boat! Fill a tub or bowl with water and place your boat on top.

If you need some visual help with this activity, check out this helpful video!

How To Fold A Simple Origami Boat + SYA

by Art for Kids Hub

