

Wooden boat kit



Okay, I used straight branches from trees, between one and four inches thick. I cut those branches into lengths between four and eight inches long, then split them lengthwise. I started out splitting them but setting them on end and splitting them with a hammer and a wedge, but that proved to be a lot of work, so my husband ended up splitting most of them on his table saw. Then we drilled a little hole ($\frac{3}{16}$ "-same diameter as the dowels) about a third of the way or sometimes closer to the middle of the flat side of the branch. This made the body of the boat. Then we cut about 3 to 6 inch lengths of the dowels to use as masts. Then we cut rectangles with the long side a little shorter than the dowels out of felt and cut them corner to corner to make sails. We cut two holes in the middle-length sides so that these could be threaded onto the mast. The sanding blocks were made but cutting 2 X 2's into 3- $\frac{2}{3}$ " lengths. Then each one of these got a sheet of 3- $\frac{2}{3}$ " X 9" medium grit sandpaper wrapped around it, and two thumbtacks pushed in to secure the sandpaper. This made the sanding block. The children could sand the body of the boat (the split branch) and the ends of the dowel before assembling the boats. Anyway, I had some extras of these, so I just put one together (without sanding), took a picture, and uploaded it to the photos section under my folder (Deb) so that you can see it and get the idea. If I had had more time, I probably would have rounded the front end of each boat as well. You can also get sheets of balsa wood that can be cut with an Exacto knife and make accessories for boats, or simply include it with the kits for older children to design and make their own (rudder, anchor, etc.).