

Ahoy, Artist! Let's Build the Titanic!

Materials Needed:

- Lots of popsicle sticks (craft sticks) - around 100-150
- Strong liquid glue (like wood glue or tacky glue)
- Child-safe scissors or craft clippers (adult help might be needed)
- Paint (Black, White, Red/Orange, Yellow)
- Paintbrushes
- A picture of the Titanic for reference
- Paper plate or surface to protect your workspace
- Optional: Small craft sticks or toothpicks for details

Introduction: All Aboard the Craft Express! (5 mins)

Hello, young builder! Today, we're going on an amazing art adventure back in time. We're going to build a model of a very famous ship called the Titanic using popsicle sticks! Have you heard of the Titanic? It was one of the biggest ships ever built over 100 years ago. Making models is a super fun way to learn about things and create your own art.

Art Appreciation: Looking at Ship Shapes (5 mins)

Let's look at our picture of the Titanic. See its long body? That's called the hull. Notice how it curves up at the front (the bow) and is flat at the back (the stern). See the flat parts on top? Those are the decks where people walked. And look at those tall towers – those are the funnels where smoke came out. Ship models, like the one we're making, are a type of sculpture. Artists make models to show what something looks like in 3D. We'll try to capture the basic shape of the Titanic with our sticks!

Let's Build! (40-50 mins)

Step 1: Build the Base (Hull Bottom)

- Lay down two long popsicle sticks parallel to each other, about 2-3 stick widths apart.
- Start gluing popsicle sticks horizontally across these two base sticks to create a long, flat rectangle. This will be the bottom of your ship's hull. Make it as long as you want your ship to be (maybe 10-12 sticks long?). Let the glue dry a bit.

Step 2: Build the Sides (Hull Walls)

- Now, we need to build walls along the edges of our base.
- Glue popsicle sticks vertically (standing up) along the long edges of the base you just made. You might need to glue sticks together side-by-side first to make wider wall sections, or carefully stack them.
- Try to make the walls curve inwards slightly at the front (bow) if you can, just like the real ship! This might involve cutting some sticks (ask an adult for help if needed) or overlapping them carefully. Build the walls up about 2-3 sticks high.

Step 3: Add the Main Deck

- Once the hull walls feel sturdy, glue popsicle sticks flat across the top of the walls. This creates the main deck of your ship. Cover the whole top.

Step 4: Build the Superstructure (Upper Decks)

- Now, build a smaller, shorter rectangular structure on top of the main deck, usually towards the middle and front. This represents the upper decks and bridge area. Build it similar to how you built the hull - make a smaller base and add short walls (maybe 1 stick high).

Step 5: Create the Funnels

- The Titanic had four funnels! Let's make them. Take 3-4 popsicle sticks and glue them together side-by-side to make a small square or rectangle.
- Carefully stand this bundle up on the superstructure and glue it in place. Repeat this three more times, lining them up along the top of the ship model. Let everything dry thoroughly.

Painting Time! (15-20 mins)

Once your glue is completely dry, it's time to bring your Titanic to life with color!

- Look at your reference picture again.
- Paint the lower part of the hull black.
- Paint the upper part of the hull, the main deck, and the superstructure white.
- Paint the funnels a reddish-orange or tan color, with black tops.
- You can add yellow dots for windows if you like!
- Let your masterpiece dry completely.

Conclusion: Ship Shape! (5 mins)

Wow, look at your amazing Popsicle Stick Titanic! You followed directions, used your art skills, and built a model of a famous ship. You learned about the different parts of a ship and how artists can represent real things through sculpture. Doesn't it look grand? You are now a ship model artist! Find a special place to display your creation.