

2. Rafts



Anything that floats can be lashed together to make a raft and serve as a boat. Bamboo, wood logs and reeds have all been used as raw materials, tied together with vines or palm fibers. Early rafts served as fishing platforms, allowed transportation across bodies of water.



Raft propulsion is achieved by pushing with poles, pulling with ropes, or paddling. When floating down rivers, the current does all the work. Later, sails were added to reduce effort going downwind; but rafts have no keel or shape to keep them moving in a straight line, so steering is always difficult.

