

Fun at home activity

Make a toy horsedrawn cart

Inspiration: Make a toy horsedrawn cart or carriage, inspired by the exhibition *Spirited: Australia's Horse Story* at the National Museum of Australia.



Activity: Children at our Carts, carriages and carousels summer 2014–2015 Discovery Space made their own toy cart from materials including cardboard, timber sticks, screws, balsa wood, vinyl, foam and string. At home, you can make your own horsedrawn toy cart from everyday objects too. Here are some ideas.

Time and difficulty: This activity takes about 30 minutes to an hour.

Hint: If you use materials from around the home, make sure you ask an adult first if it is okay to use them. You might need to get help from an adult with putting holes in lids to make wheels, hammering nails and cutting materials.

What you need:

- Foam (we used some old packaging found in boxes that stored TV monitors).
- wood blocks, Paddle Pop sticks, skewers or dowel
- small plastic, foam or cardboard boxes or takeaway containers
- jar lids, corks, toilet paper rolls or wooden spoons (these can make interesting wheels)
- cardboard or paper
- scissors (remember, these can be sharp, so ask an adult for help)
- hammer or drill (ask an adult for help if you are using tools as they can be dangerous)
- glue, nails, screws and string (experiment with what works to attach materials)
- decorative materials such as cardboard, fabric, vinyl, ribbon or string that you may have at home.

Steps:

1. Think about what life would be like without cars and imagine relying on horses for transport.

How would you attach a cart or carriage to a horse? Would you move people, bread, milk or something else on your cart? What materials can you use? How big will your cart be?

You might like to do some research or find a picture of a horse and cart. Check out our [Spirited](#) website for some more inspiration.



Carts in the Museum's collection include (from left) a bakery delivery cart, the Ranken family's coach and a milk delivery cart.

2. Ask an adult to help you find your materials. You will need something for the base and body of the cart and its wheels.

If you are using scissors, a drill or hammer please take care and ask for help because scissors are sharp and electrical items can be dangerous.

Cut the materials to size and use the tools to punch a hole in the centre of your wheels. This will make the wheels easier to attach to the body of the cart later.



3. Create a frame for the base of the cart using skewers, small sticks and/or foam. Use glue or string to bind the base together.



4. Think about how you will attach the wheels. If you made your base from foam try pushing a skewer through the foam, then threading on the wheel. If your base is made of wood, you could ask an adult to help screw or glue the wheels onto it. Or you could draw some wheels on with pencils or textas.



5. Use wooden sticks or cardboard to make two shafts for your cart. Glue them to the base of your cart. Tie some string on the end of the shafts to make a harness to attach to a toy horse.



6. Create the body of your cart using a small box or takeaway containers. You might also like to add a roof.



7. Line your cart with vinyl, coloured paper or fabric for a smoother ride. You could also make your own [horse toy](#) using the instructions from our website.

Share your creation! Try making a few different types of cart and experiment with items they can hold. Share your creation with us by sending a photo to: schoolholidays@nma.gov.au. We will add your photo to the [National Museum's Flickr stream](#), where you can see other craft creations from our Discovery Space.

[More fun at home activities, videos and games on the Museum's website](#)