

A boat for St Nicholas

Maybe you have purchased some new winter shoes for your child this month?
Then why not recycle the shoe box into a sturdy ship to bring St Nicholas to Belgium.

Materials needed:

- Shoe box
- Empty toilet rolls
- Empty paper towel roll
- String/ribbon/tinsel
- Coloured paper
- Paint/coloured pens or pencils
- Pipe Cleaner
- Glue/Tape



Method:

1. First take the lid off your shoe box and let your child paint the outside of the box.
2. Next let them paint the longer paper towel roll which will form the mast of St Nicholas' ship.
3. While these are drying then can make a start making the passengers for this special ship – St Nicholas and his helper, Piet!
4. St Nicholas wears red so help them wrap a piece of red paper around the roll and secure with tape at the back.
5. Next, they should cut out a circle to form a face and after they have drawn on eyes and a big smiley mouth, they can either use white paper (slightly bigger than his face and stuck behind it) or cotton wool to make his beard.



The mast



6. They can now make St Nicholas' hat using red paper and a yellow cross and attach this to the top of his face. The whole lot can be secured to the top of the red roll body with glue or tape.
7. Final touches are cutting two red stripes of paper for his arms and adding some small paper hands. Glue these to St Nicholas body and add a pipe cleaner curled over at the top to form his golden staff.
8. Piet wears many different coloured costumes so let your child choose their favourite colour and again secure the paper around the roll with some glue or tape at the back.
9. Following the same steps as they did for St Nicholas let them make a face for Piet and add a hat to match his costume and some circle paper buttons on his costume.
10. Once the shoe box ship is dry, they can decorate the outside with stickers and/or portholes.
11. Help your child cut 1cm slits in the bottom of the painted tube so it can be stuck with tape inside the box to form the ships mast.
12. Cut two small slits at the top of the mast so the string rigging stays in place and secure the other ends of the string to the sides of your box.

Sint Nicholas and Piet are now ready to set sail to Belgium from Spain in time for Saint Nicholas Day!



If your child is lucky, they might even find some tasty pepernoot cookies or chocolate inside the ship when they wake up in the morning!