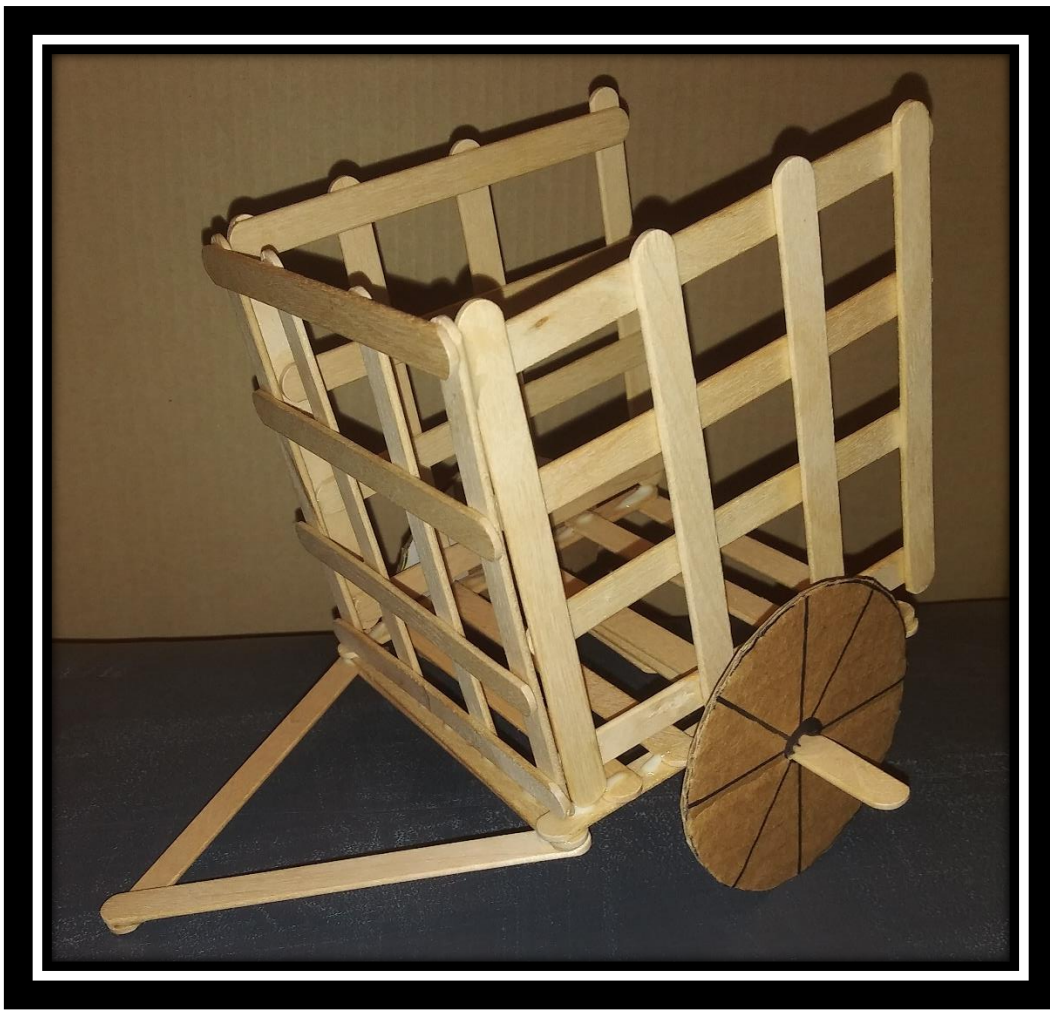


El Pueblo Historical Monument

Carreta At-Home Workshop

El Pueblo[™] de Los Angeles



This workshop is fun for all ages and created with things you may already have at home. Create a homemade model of 1840s transportation using popsicle sticks and cardboard.

Historic Facts about Carretas

Carretas were carts pulled by oxen or horses. These carts were used for transportation as well as delivery of supplies. Carretas would be a common sight all around Los Angeles during the 1840s. Carretas could carry heavy loads, but also carry working-class people between the town and the ranchos. These carts would move very slowly, but would be much easier than walking and carrying goods over long distances. Carretas and similar carts remained a staple of life in Los Angeles until motorized vehicles became common. Similar carts were common around the world, with some areas still using them today! In countries, like Costa Rica, the carreta has remained a part of the culture and are now beautifully decorated. El Pueblo Historical Monument's Avila Adobe, the oldest house standing in Los Angeles, has its own carreta in the Courtyard.



Materials

- Thirty-Seven (37) popsicle sticks
- White glue
- Cardboard
- A cup
- Scissors
- A ruler
- A pen or pencil
- A cardboard box or a few big books
- *Optional* Paint or markers

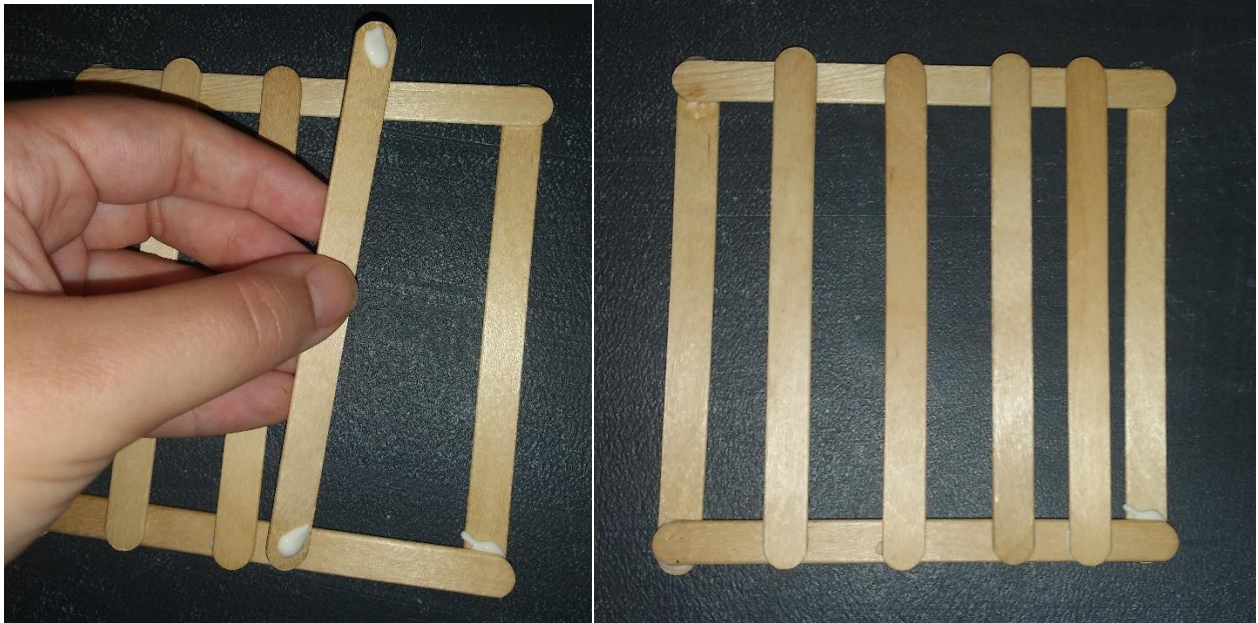
Steps/Instructions

Step One: Collect all your materials on a flat surface.

Step Two: Take four (4) popsicle sticks and glue them at the corners to form a square.

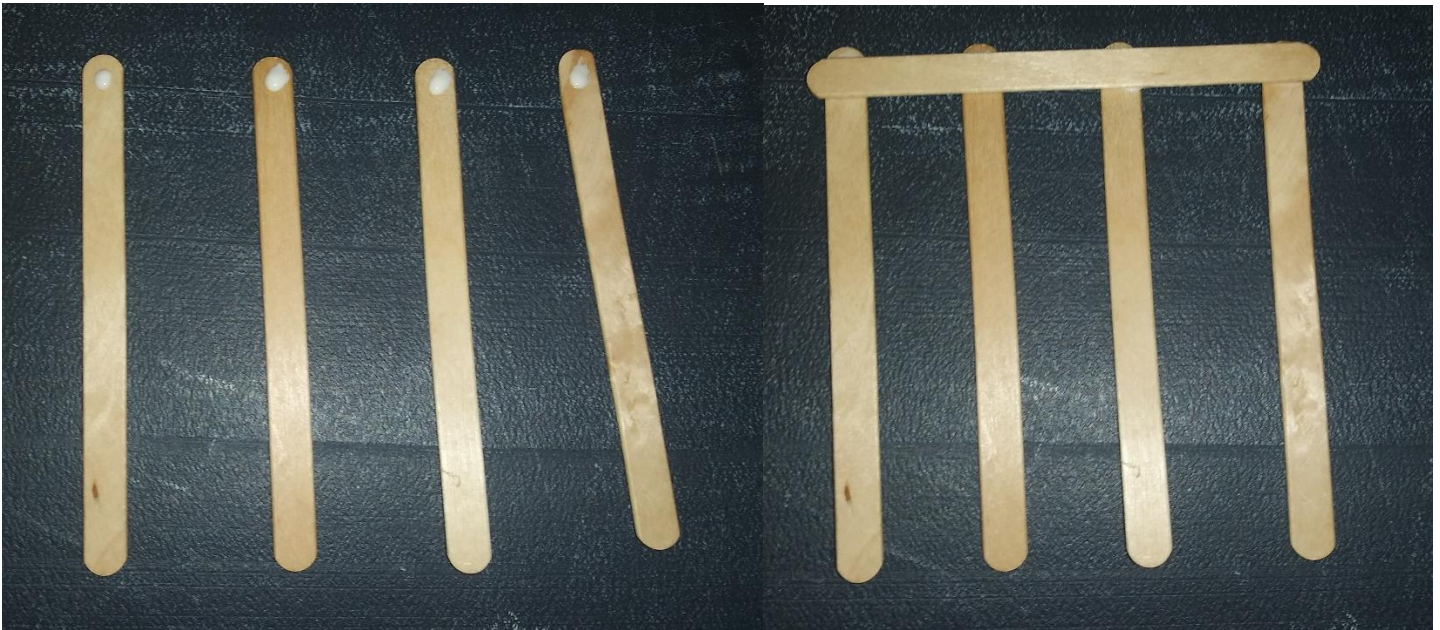


Step Three: Glue four (4) popsicle sticks across the square base. This makes the base of your carreta!

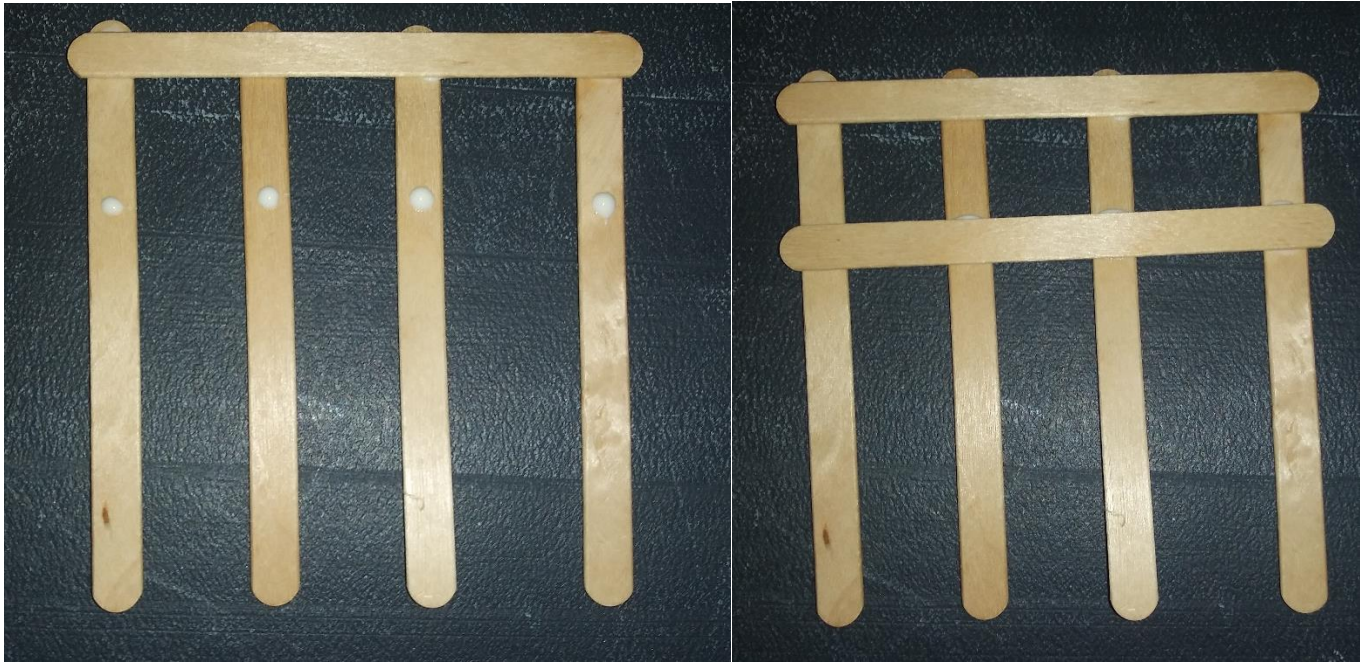


Now you will begin assembling the sides of the carreta!

Step Four: Lay out four (4) popsicle sticks in a row. Place a bead of glue on the top of the popsicle sticks and attach one (1) popsicle stick across all four (4). You may easily adjust the spacing of the vertical (up and down) popsicle sticks while the glue is wet.

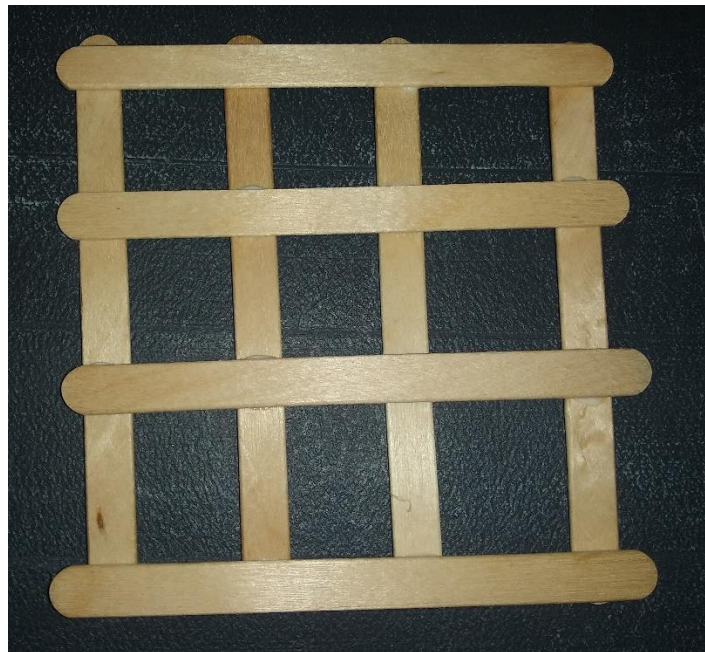


Step Five: Place a bead of glue on each of the vertical popsicle sticks about an inch below the first horizontal (left and right) stick. Attach another stick along this line.



Tip: Remember these were tough working means of transportation. Your carreta does not need to be perfectly spaced. The actual carretas used in the past were not perfect either!

Step Six: Repeat Step Five two (2) more times until the side of your carreta looks like this:



Step Seven: Repeat Step Four through Step Six two (2) more times. You will end up with three (3) carreta sides!

Tip: Assembling your carreta requires patience. Imagine you are a slow oxen dragging your carreta full of food and supplies into the Pueblo. The wait will be worth it!

Step Eight: Place the base of your cart in the corner of a cardboard box or between the corners of two big books.



Step Nine: Put a thick line of white glue along the two edges against the corner of the box or books. Place two (2) of the carreta sides against the sides of the box or books and press them into the glue. Apply a line of glue in between the edges of the two (2) sides. The box or book will help hold it in place.



Step Ten: Place a generous bead of glue between the top corners of the sides of the carreta. Leave the glued carreta to sit for at least twenty (20) minutes.



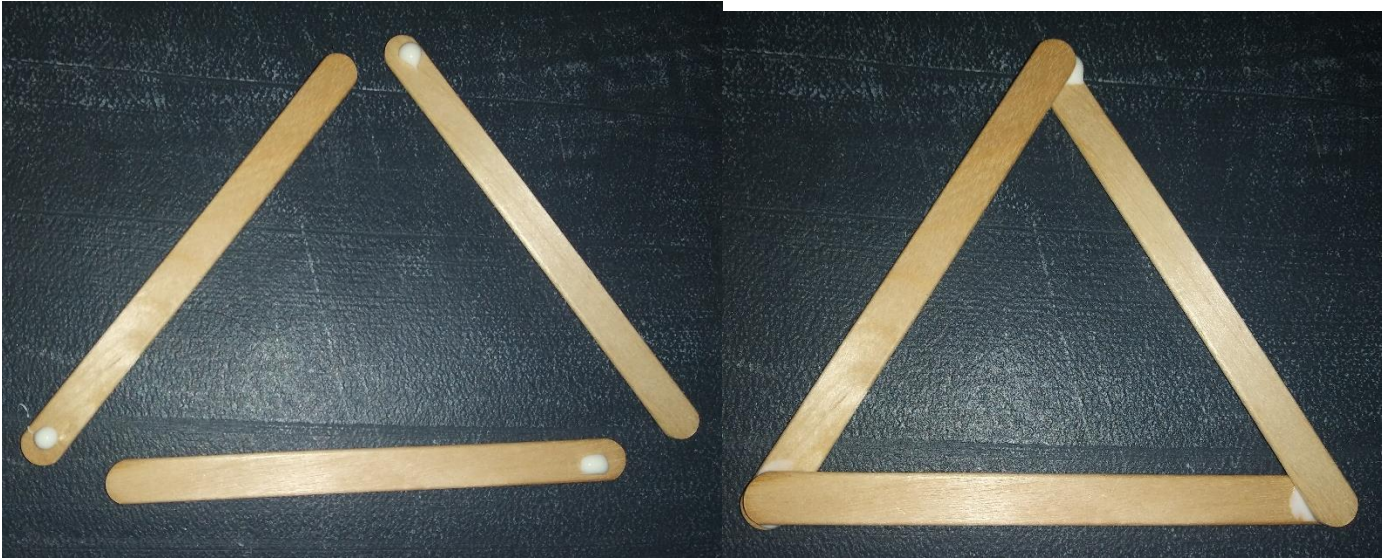
Tip: Gently pinch these corners together for a count of twenty (20) to help them adhere.

Step Eleven: After you have let the corners set, gently turn the carreta and adhere the third side. Add another generous amount of glue to the base, side, and top corner as before. Once again, let the carreta sit to dry for twenty (20) minutes.



While the main part of the carreta dries, you will build the rest of the pieces.

Step Twelve: Take three (3) popsicle sticks and glue them together in a triangle shape. This creates the part of the carreta that would attach to the yoke, or harness, for the oxen.

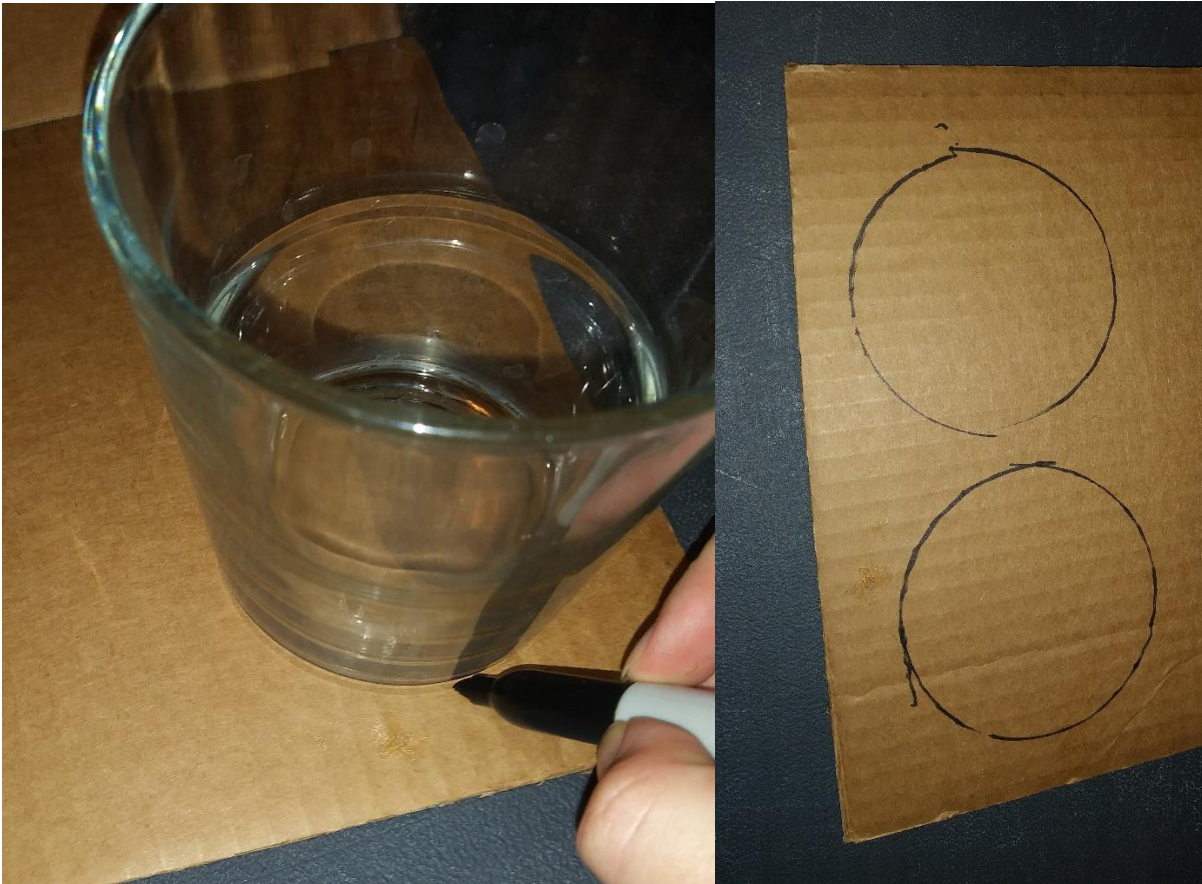


Step Thirteen: Take two (2) popsicle sticks. On one of them place an inch long line of glue. Take the other popsicle stick and attach it to the other to make one long stick. This creates the axle of the carreta, where the wheels are attached.

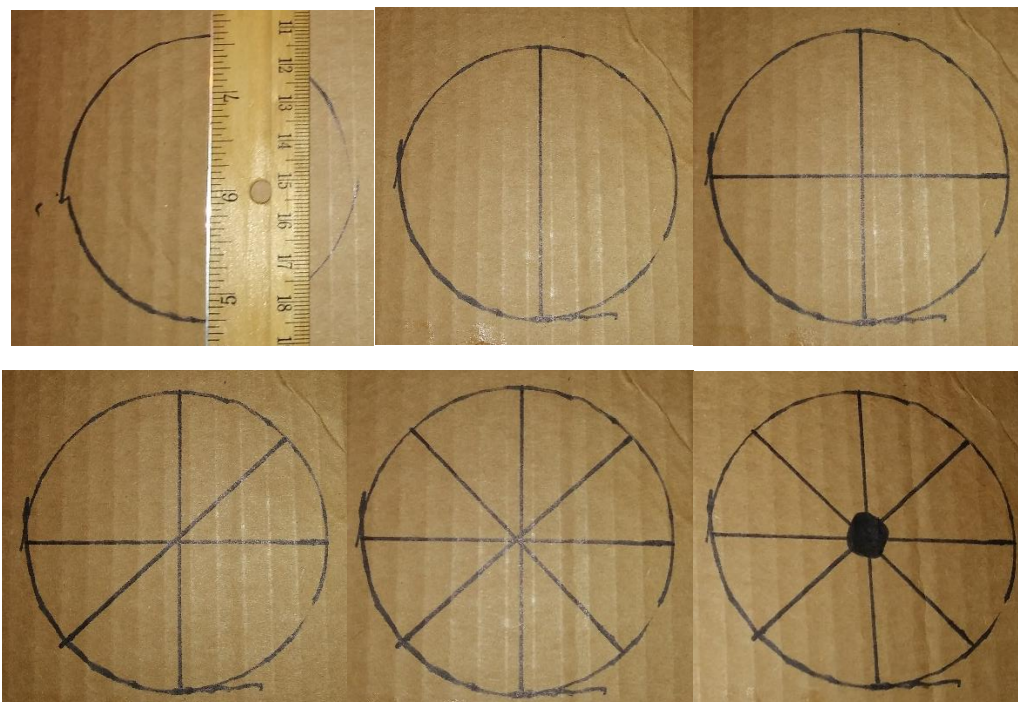


Tip: If you would like your carreta to really roll, you could use a wooden skewer as an axel.

Step Fourteen: Take a piece of cardboard and trace the end of a cup two times.



Step Fifteen: Take a ruler and with a pen or marker draw the spokes of the carreta wheels. Draw a spot in the center of each wheel.



Step Sixteen: Ask an adult to help cut out the two wheels and to punch a hole through the spot at the center.

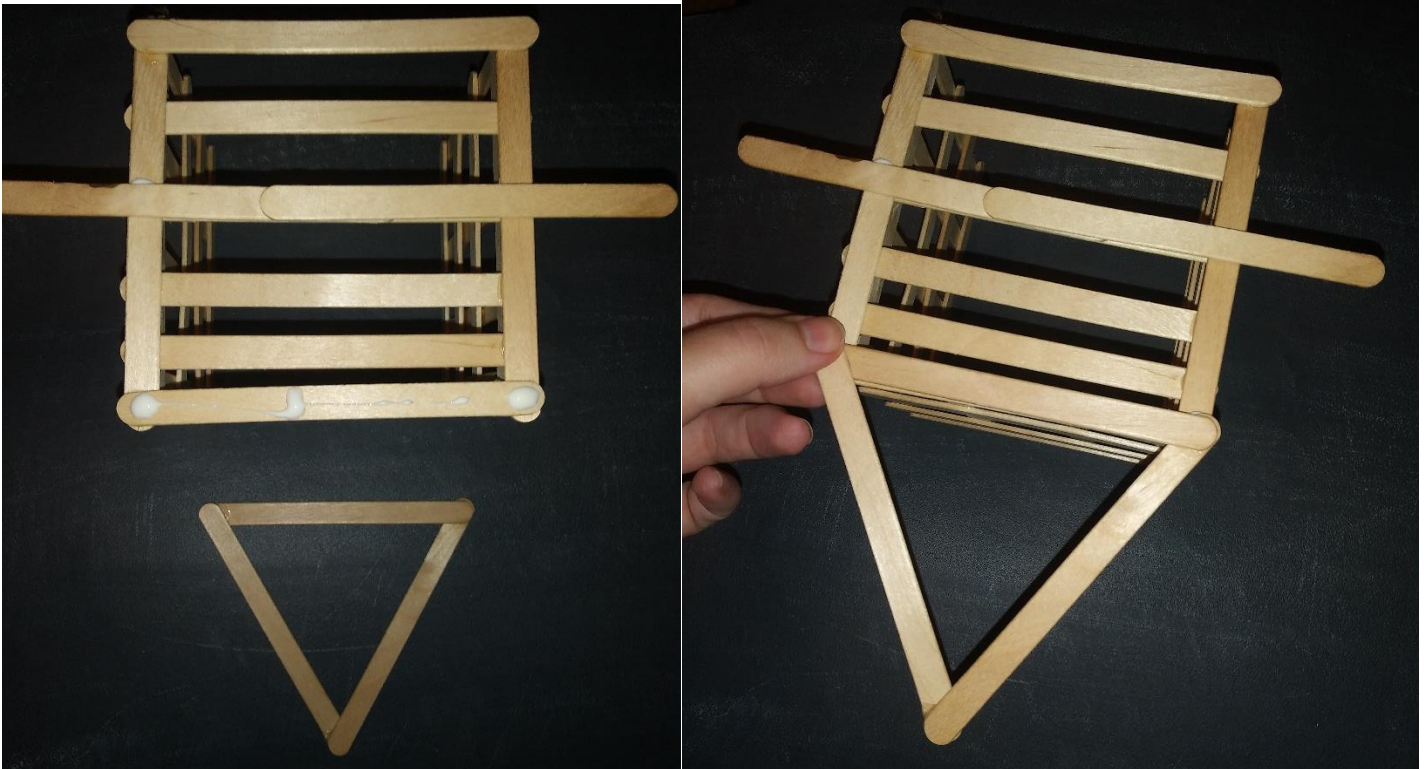


Step Seventeen: Gently remove the body of the carreta from its box or book supports. Turn it over. Apply beads of glue along the middle of the base of the carreta and to the axel. Gently press the axel into place.



Tip: You will notice that one end of your carreta is open. This is important for the next step.

Step Eighteen: Apply glue to the closed end of your carreta base and to one side of the triangle you created earlier. Gently pinch the triangle on to the base of the carreta for twenty (20) seconds.



Tip: Allow these pieces to dry for at least ten (10) minutes.

Step Nineteen: Gently flip the carreta over and slide the wheels on to each end of the axel sticking out.



Optional Step: *Once the carreta is finished drying you can paint it or add decorations!*

Congratulations! You have build your very own historic carreta! Stay safe and we hope to see you on your next visit to El Pueblo Historical Monument soon!