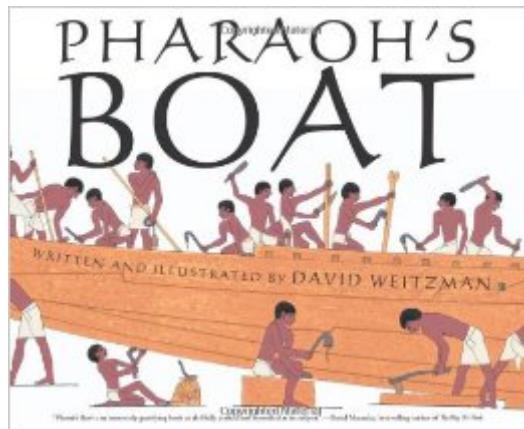


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## Pharaoh's Boat



## **Synopsis**

With poetic language and striking illustrations, Weitzman tells the story of how one of the greatest boats of ancient Egypt came to be built "and built again. In the shadow of the Great Pyramid at Giza, the most skilled shipwrights in all of Egypt are building an enormous vessel that will transport Cheops, the mighty pharaoh, across the winding waterway and into a new world. Pharaoh's boat will be a wonder to behold, and well prepared for the voyage ahead. But no one, not even the Egyptian king himself, could have imagined just where the journey of Pharaoh's boat would ultimately lead .s.s.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 1170L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; 1st edition (May 18, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054705341X

ISBN-13: 978-0547053417

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #304,220 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #148 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Boats & Ships #167 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Ancient

Age Range: 7 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

## **Customer Reviews**

Ok, normal homeschooling mom here... not avid shipbuilder or Egypt fan like the other reviewers here, or anything important. I was excited to pick up this book because it was new enough not to have made it into all my homeschooling catalogs yet. I was planning an Ancient Egypt unit and was sure that it was going to be a hit. The book was enjoyable, but slightly disappointing. It is a great book for boat engineering, not a fun Egyptian story. The Pros: the illustrations are probably the best part. My boys in particular loved looking at the boats with all their details. They counted the sailors on the ships, asked questions about the building, and enjoyed the Egyptian artistic style. Truly, the book goes into incredible detail about the shipbuilding process--almost like a David Macaulay book

except in color--so it will delight any boat fan.Cons: it is incredibly boring. While this book looks like a children's story, it is NOT. There's no story really. My preschooler was gone before the fifth page. Each page and illustration is basically the same--the boat, the boat, and the boat again. Then, the story of the shipbuilding scholar begins, and that confused my little kids a lot. They thought they were just reading about the past but then the restorer of the boat, an Arabic historian, is suddenly drawn into the story. My older kids seemed to understand this transition fine, but then the text was still above their heads. Or else they just weren't interested enough. They didn't have enough engineering knowledge or attention to enjoy it more than once through. So in my opinion, this is not a book for kids under third grade, really, unless you have an unusual shipbuilding aficionado.

Egypt is every child's favorite subject, (second only to dinosaurs!), and this rich, beautifully - and FULLY! (check out the endpapers of planting and harvesting along the banks of the Nile!) illustrated book is also fascinatingly written, telling the double story of the building of the boat for the Pharaoh in 4,000 years ago, and its excavation and re-construction by a native Egyptian archeologist 50 years ago. What a treat, and it's for all ages, really. By the way, David Weitzman has a whole opus of great kid's books on early technologies. His website is [weitzmanbooks.com](http://weitzmanbooks.com).

Cheops, an Egyptian Pharaoh, had to prepare for his own death, like many before him. He built a magnificent pyramid that held "2,300,000 stone blocks" and was almost "five hundred feet high." The tomb was ready, but there was something else that needed to be built. His son Djedefre, who succeeded him to the throne, felt that something was missing in order to insure his "father's safe passage into the afterlife," so he set his men to work. Cheops needed two ships to take him to the other world and they must be magnificent to prove his stature here on Earth. The dead had to cross a body of water to get to the other side and they would have to be good ones. During a 1954 excavation workers ran up against something very unusual when they were "clearing away tons of windblown sand and rubble" near the Great Pyramid at Giza. It was a wall, but what was it hiding? In the two pits lined with limestone blocks were Cheops' ships, each made of "decay-resistant cedar" that could "survive for thousands of years." This is the story of how the Egyptians constructed his ships and how thousands of years later Hag Ahmed Youssef Mustafa would excavate and reconstruct them. It would be like a puzzle, could Hag Ahmed discover the ancient Egyptian shipbuilding secrets and bring them back to life? Reconstructing a 1,224 piece puzzle without a picture would be a horrendous task! This is a marvelous story about the Cheop's funerary ships that will fascinate many different types of readers, especially those with an interest in Egyptian

antiquities and archaeology. The reader will be thrilled when, toward the end of the book, the pages swing out to a four-page spread to show what one of these boats look like in its entirety. The writing is so compelling it would make this book a page turner except for the fact the reader has to stop and examine the amazing art work. The afterword tells the reader a bit more about the excavations. This book is a marvelous rendition of the recreation of Cheop's ships and his "celestial journey!"

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