



The McCormick Bridgehouse and Chicago River Museum tells the dynamic history of the moveable bridge system that serves as a gateway between the city's North side and South side.

Did Ya KNOW?

At the turn of last century, the Chicago River was bustling with a **wide range of shipping and passenger vessels.**



Today, as sailboats and other tall vessels travel the Chicago River, the **moveable bridges**



open sequentially to let them pass.

There are specific bridge lift days every Spring and Fall.

The Michigan Ave. Bridge, built in 1920, was the first **double-deck, double-leaf, fixed trunnion bascule bridge** ever built.

(A bascule bridge is a drawbridge hinged with a counterweight that continuously balances the leaf or long arm that crosses the river).



Xtra Fun, Xtra Credit!

For adventurers 5+

Design your very own bridge!

Materials Needed:

- 6 cardboard tubes (we used toilet paper rolls)
- Corrugated cardboard cut 5" x 14"
- Multicolored popsicle sticks
- Glue gun
- Scissors
- Red Paint (optional)



Step 1 Create slits in the cardboard tubes 1 1/2" from the bottom. Cut 1/2 way through each tube.



Step 2 Slide the cardboard into the slits, one side at a time.



Step 3 Glue popsicle sticks in place along the base of the bridge and along the sides too.

Try different patterns if you'd like!

Note: We painted the entire 'bridge' red and let it dry before adding the popsicle sticks. You can also leave it unpainted.

Your bridge is ready for traffic!

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