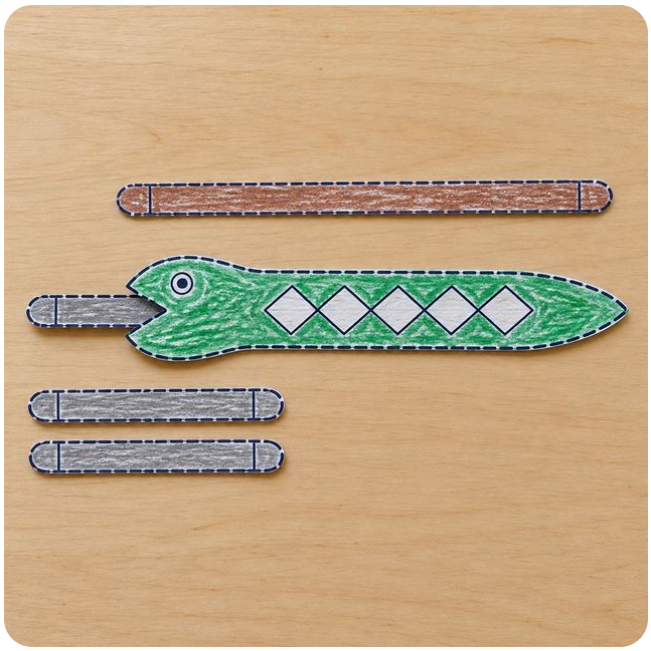
Preschool–Grade 5

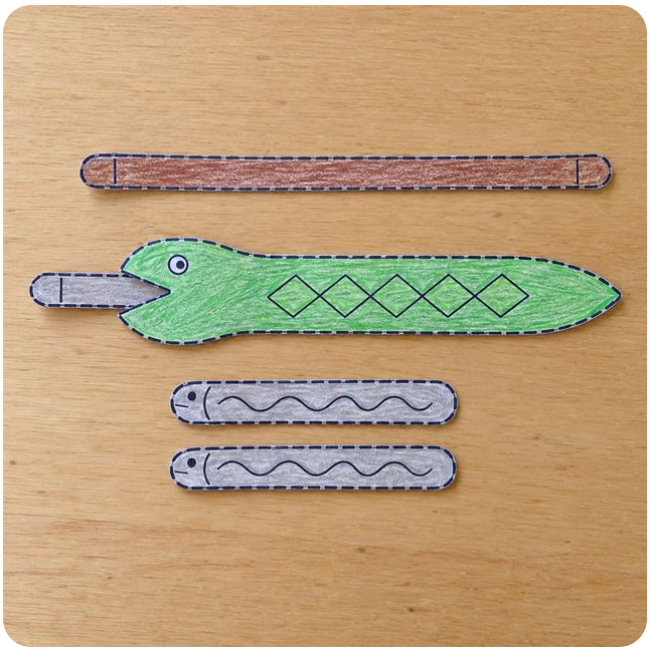
# The Moses and Pharaoh Craft

Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods · Exodus 7:8–13 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

## What it looks like finished



**Easy and medium**



**Harder**

Both levels are a green paper serpent pocket with an open mouth, a brown rod, and three gray rods sliding into the serpent's mouth. "Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods" (Exodus 7:12). Medium (left): Aaron's rod, the serpent and the three magicians' rods. Harder (right): the same, but each magician's rod has a small gray serpent glued on the back, so it turns over from rod to serpent.


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Name: _____

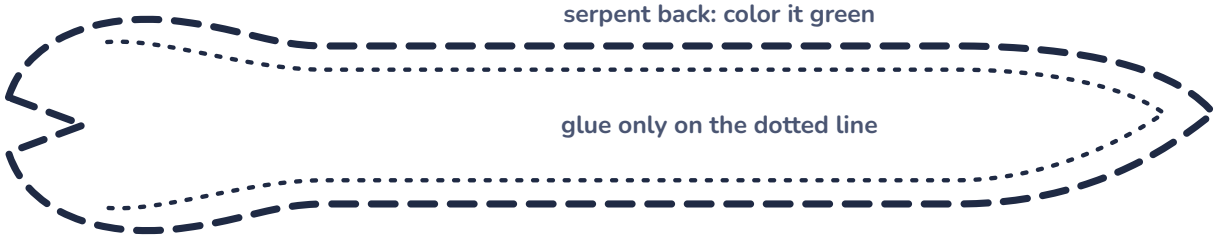
✂ Cut on the dashed lines

Aaron's rod: color it brown



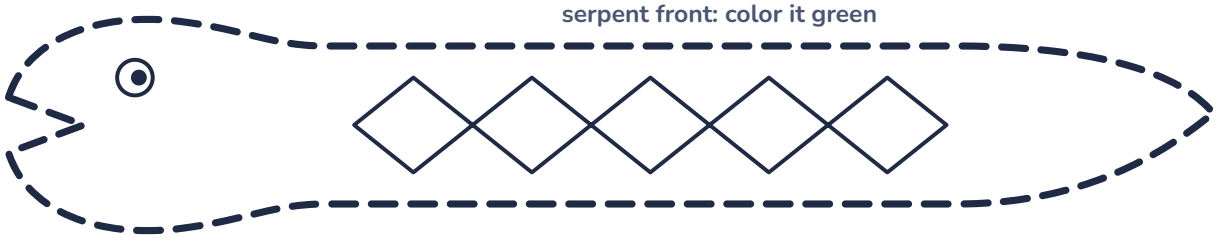
serpent back: color it green

glue only on the dotted line



leave the mouth open: no glue at the head

serpent front: color it green



magicians' rods: color them gray



verse strip: glue it on the back of the serpent

**For they cast down every man his rod,**
**and they became serpents: but**
**Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods.**

**Exodus 7:12 (KJV)**

Color Aaron's rod brown, the serpent back and the serpent front green, and the three magicians' rods gray. Cut out all seven pieces. Glue the serpent front on the serpent back only on the dotted line, so the mouth stays open. Glue the verse strip on the back.

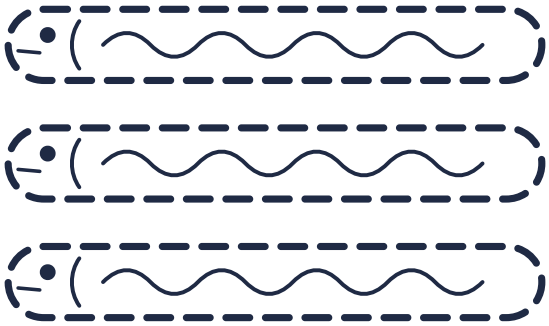


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Name: _____ ✂ Harder level

## Small serpents (harder level)

**Color them gray, cut on the dashed lines, and glue one on the back of each magician's rod.**



small serpents: the same size as the magicians' rods on page 2

### How to make the rods that become serpents

1. Make the serpent pocket, Aaron's rod and the three magicians' rods from page 2 first.
2. Color the three small serpents gray and cut them out on the dashed lines.
3. Glue one small serpent on the back of each magician's rod, with the edges lined up. Now each piece is a rod on one side and a serpent on the other.
4. On the back of Aaron's rod, write "God is greater!" and one way you will obey God this week.
5. Tell the story in order. Lay down Aaron's rod, then take it away and lay the big serpent in its place (Exodus 7:10). Lay the three magicians' pieces rod side up. Turn them over: "they became serpents" (7:12). Then slide them into the big serpent's mouth, one at a time: "Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods" (7:12).

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## For the teacher

**See it finished:** a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/moses-and-pharaoh-craft
**Time:** 15 to 30 minutes, depending on the level · **Ages:** 3 to 11, in three levels · **Cost:** under 50 cents a child for the easy and medium levels
**You need:** page 2 printed once per child (cardstock is sturdiest), brown, green and gray crayons or markers, scissors and glue sticks. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child and a pencil.
**Before class:** for preschoolers, cut out Aaron's rod, the serpent back, the serpent front, the three magicians' rods and the verse strip ahead of time. Glue the serpent front on the serpent back (only on the dotted line, mouth open) and glue the verse strip on the back.

## Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out each child's pieces and glue the serpent pocket together with the verse on the back. Kids color the rod brown, the serpent green and the magicians' rods gray, and then slide the gray rods into the serpent's mouth.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, glue the serpent pocket and tell the story with the rods. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the serpent and rods like the medium level. Then glue a small serpent from page 3 on the back of each magician's rod, so each one turns over from rod to serpent, and write on the back of Aaron's rod. This is the craft in the second photo.

## Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color Aaron's rod brown. Color the serpent back and the serpent front green. Color the three magicians' rods gray.
2. **Cut:** cut out Aaron's rod, the serpent back, the serpent front, the three magicians' rods and the verse strip on the dashed lines.
3. **Make the serpent:** put glue only on the dotted line of the serpent back. Press the serpent front on top so the edges line up. Leave the mouth open, so the serpent is a pocket.
4. **Verse:** turn the serpent over and glue the verse strip on the back. Read it together.
5. **Tell it:** lay Aaron's rod on the table. Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, "and it became a serpent" (Exodus 7:10), so take the rod away and lay the serpent in its place. Lay the three magicians' rods in front of it (7:11–12).
6. **Swallow them up:** slide the magicians' rods into the serpent's open mouth, one at a time, until they are gone: "Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods" (7:12).


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## Questions to ask while kids work

- Who did God send to Pharaoh? *(Moses and his brother Aaron, Exodus 7:1–2)*
- How old were they? *(Moses was 80 and Aaron was 83, 7:7)*
- What did God say Pharaoh would ask for? *("Shew a miracle for you," 7:9)*
- Hold up the brown rod. What happened when Aaron cast it down before Pharaoh? *(It became a serpent, 7:10)*
- Who did Pharaoh call? *(The wise men and the sorcerers, 7:11)*
- Hold up the gray rods. What happened to the magicians' rods? *(They became serpents, but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods, 7:12)*
- Did Pharaoh listen? *(No, his heart was hardened, and he hearkened not, 7:13)*

## Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **rod** is a long walking stick; a **serpent** is a snake; **shew** means show; **cast down** means threw down; **every man his rod** means each man threw his own rod; **swallowed up** means ate them all up; **fourscore** means 80; **hearkened not** means did not listen.
- **What the Bible says:** Exodus 7:12 says Aaron's rod "swallowed up their rods." It doesn't say how many magicians there were or what the rods and serpents looked like. The three gray rods are only for the craft, and the colors are only for the craft.
- **No magic, only God's power:** the magicians are named only as the Bible names them (7:11). Don't make the craft a magic trick; keep the focus on God being greater.
- **No one is drawn on the template:** the craft shows only rods and serpents, and kids tell the story with them.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut everything and glue the pockets ahead of time. Use glue sticks, not liquid glue. Let every child say, "God is greater!" as each gray rod goes in.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Moses and Pharaoh lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/moses-and-pharaoh.


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