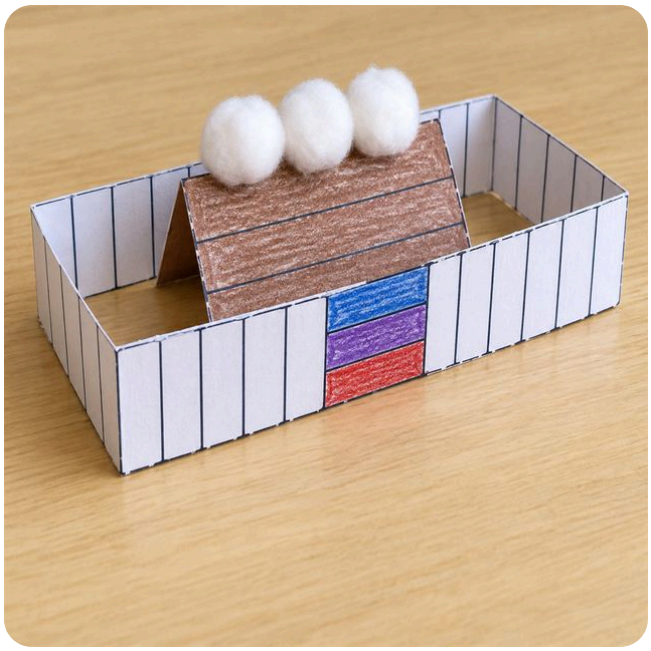
Preschool–Grade 5

Tabernacle Craft

Stand-up court and tent · Exodus 25:1–9; 40:33–38 · print page 2 for each child (and page 3 for the harder level)

What it looks like finished



Easy and medium



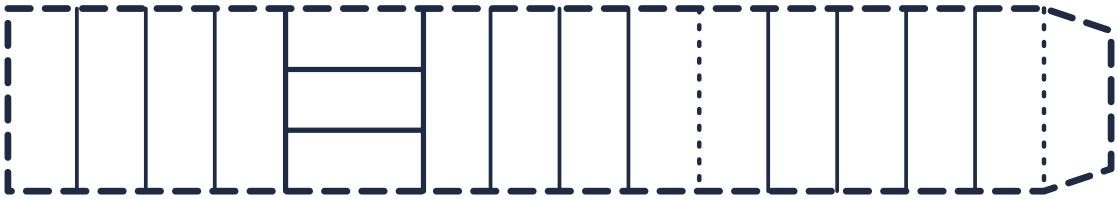
Harder

Both levels are a stand-up paper court: a white linen fence in a long rectangle with a gate of blue, purple and red stripes in the front, and a brown tent standing inside with a cotton-ball cloud on top. Moses "reared up the court round about the tabernacle... and set up the hanging of the court gate," and "a cloud covered the tent of the congregation" (Exodus 40:33–34). Medium (left): the court and tent. Harder (right): the same, with a cloud-and-fire stick beside it, fire side up (40:38).

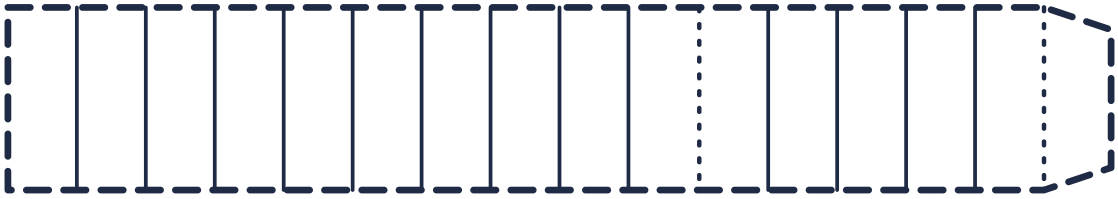
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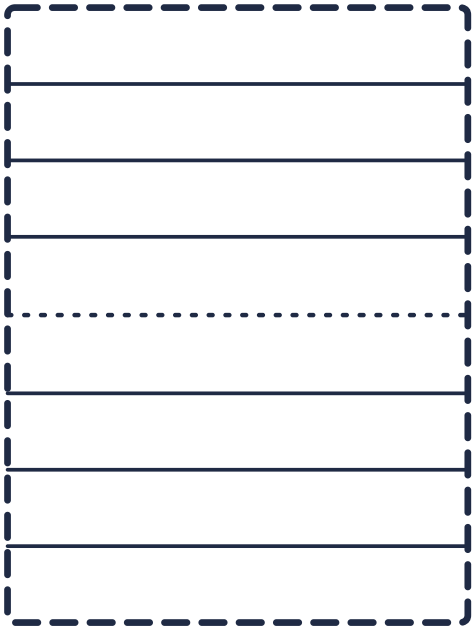
✂ Cut on the dashed lines



fence 1: leave it white; gate stripes blue (top), purple, red. Fold on the dotted lines.



fence 2: leave it white. Fold on the dotted lines.



tent: color it brown; fold on the dotted line

And let them make me a sanctuary;
that I may dwell among them.
Exodus 25:8 (KJV)

verse strip: glue it on the outside of fence 2

Color each piece the way its label says. Cut out all four pieces. Glue the two fences into a rectangle, stand the tent inside, and glue 3 cotton balls on top of the tent.

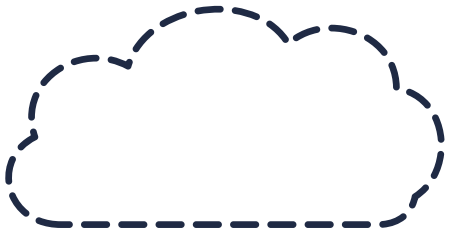
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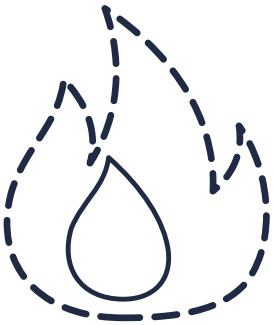
✂ Harder level

Cloud and fire (harder level)

Cut out both pieces on the dashed lines.



cloud (by day): leave it white



fire (by night): red and orange outside, yellow in the middle

How to make the cloud and fire stick

1. Make the court and the tent from page 2 first, with the cotton-ball cloud on top of the tent.
2. Color the fire red and orange on the outside and yellow in the middle. Leave the cloud white.
3. Cut out the cloud and the fire on the dashed lines.
4. Turn the cloud over. Glue the top of a craft stick to the back of the cloud, coming up from its flat bottom. Then rub glue on the back of the fire and press it on the other side, back to back with the cloud, so the stick is in between.
5. Use it to tell the story: hold the cloud side over the tent, because "a cloud covered the tent of the congregation" (Exodus 40:34). Turn it to the fire side for night, because "fire was on it by night" (40:38). Lift it up high and move it: "when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward" (40:36).

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For the teacher

See it finished: a photo of the finished craft is at vbshq.com/crafts/the-tabernacle-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), blue, purple, red and brown crayons or markers, 3 cotton balls per child, glue sticks and scissors. For the harder level, also page 3 printed once per child, orange and yellow crayons, and 1 craft stick per child.
Before class: for preschoolers, cut out and fold the pieces.

Three ways to make it

- **Easy (preschool, ages 3–5), about 15 minutes, no scissors:** before class, cut out and fold each child's pieces. Kids color the gate and the tent. You glue the fences into a rectangle and glue on the verse strip. Kids stand the tent inside and press the cotton balls on top.
- **Medium (grades K–2), about 20 minutes:** follow the steps below. Kids color, cut, fold and glue it themselves. This is the craft in the first photo.
- **Harder (grades 3–5), about 30 minutes:** make the court and tent like the medium level. Then make the cloud-and-fire stick from page 3 (Exodus 40:36–38). This is the craft in the second photo.

Steps (medium level)

1. **Color:** color the gate on fence 1 in three stripes: blue on top, purple in the middle, red on the bottom. Leave the rest of both fences white. Color the tent brown.
2. **Cut:** cut out the four pieces on the dashed lines: fence 1, fence 2, the tent and the verse strip.
3. **Fold:** fold both fences on their dotted lines, so each has a long side, a short side and a small tab.
4. **Make the court:** glue the tab of fence 1 behind the plain end of fence 2, and the tab of fence 2 behind the plain end of fence 1. It stands up as a long rectangle with the gate in the front.
5. **Verse:** glue the verse strip on the outside of the long side of fence 2, at the back. Read it together.
6. **Tent:** fold the tent on its dotted line and stand it inside the court, toward the back.
7. **Cloud:** glue 3 cotton balls in a row along the top of the tent.

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Questions to ask while kids work

- What did God ask the people to bring? *(An offering, from everyone that gave it willingly with his heart, Exodus 25:2)*
- Why did God want a sanctuary? *("That I may dwell among them," 25:8)*
- What did God show Moses? *(The pattern, so they would make it just like it, 25:9)*
- How much did the people bring? *(Much more than enough, so Moses told them to stop, 36:5–7)*
- What did Moses set up around the tabernacle? *(The court, with the altar inside and the hanging of the court gate, 40:33)*
- Put the cotton balls on. What covered the tent? *(A cloud, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle, 40:34)*
- What did Israel do when the cloud was taken up? *(They went onward in their journeys, 40:36)*

Tips

- **Old Bible words explained:** a **sanctuary** is a holy place for God; **dwell** means live; **linen** is a fine cloth; **scarlet** is bright red; **reared up** means set up; the **court** is the fenced yard around the tabernacle.
- **What the Bible says:** the court was hangings of fine twined linen (Exodus 27:9), and the gate was a hanging of "blue, and purple, and scarlet, and fine twined linen, wrought with needlework" (Exodus 27:16). The Bible does not say how the colors were laid out; the three stripes are the craft's simple picture. The tent had coverings of rams' skins dyed red and badgers' skins (26:14); the Bible does not say what color the outside looked, so brown is the craft's simple choice. The court was twice as long as it was wide (27:18), like the paper fence.
- **Left out on purpose:** the altar in the court (40:33) and the ark, table and candlestick inside (25:10–40) are not in the craft, to keep it simple.
- **No one is drawn on the template.** God's presence is shown only as the cloud (and the fire at the harder level).
- **Glue tips:** let the fence tabs dry for a minute before standing it up. Cardstock stands best.
- **Preschool:** pre-cut and pre-fold everything and glue the court yourself. Let every child put the "cloud" on the tent.
- **Teach the story first:** this craft goes with the free Tabernacle lesson and word search at vbshq.com/bible-stories/the-tabernacle.

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