

The Great Flood



PURPOSE

In working on this badge, the boys will be reminded of the grace, mercy, and love that God has for us despite the fact that we are undeserving and wicked sinners. He showed His grace to Noah, and He will to us.

INTRODUCTION

This merit badge is based upon the Great Flood, an event recorded in Genesis 6–9. It contains the story of Noah and the Ark.

LEARNING

1. Genesis 6:5–8 says that God saw the great wickedness of the human race and determined to destroy it along with living animals, birds and creatures.
2. All of mankind and all animal life that breathed air were destroyed, except representatives of each. It could be interpreted that fish and other animals that did not breathe air survived; they are not mentioned as having been collected and kept inside the ark.

The Bible only specifically refers to “animals” and “man” being saved, not plants. Plants, submerged in water, would normally die. In the flood, God probably preserved them miraculously. When the waters retreated man and animals needed food to eat. (Genesis 6:7; 7:21–23)

3. Eight people survived the flood. They were Noah and his wife, and Noah’s three sons and their wives. They survived because Noah, described as righteous and blameless, found favor in the eyes of the Lord. (Genesis 6:8,18; 7:7)
4.
 - a. Genesis 6:14–16 says that the ark was to be built 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high. A cubit is about 18–21 inches (46–53 cm). The ark was up to 500 feet long, 83 feet wide, and 50 feet high (152 × 25 × 15 meters).
 - b. It had three stories with a door in the side and a window in the roof.
 - c. Noah was 500 years old when he became the father of Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Many think that it was about this time he began building the ark (Genesis 5:32). He was 600 when the flood began (Genesis 7:6). If he started when he was 500, it took him about 100 years to build it.

d. The ark was made of wood. Many English translations call it gopher wood, but that term is only used here in the Bible and no one knows what it is. The NIV translates it as cypress wood. It was covered in pitch.

5. Unless the entire account of Genesis 7–8 is read, this question could generate different answers. The flood started on the 17th day of the second month of the 600th year of Noah’s life (Genesis 7:11). The earth was completely dry by the 27th day of the second month of Noah’s 601st year. Using those as start and end dates of the flood, it lasted a year and ten days. The Cadets may have different answers based on other verses, but they do not contradict each other. It just depends on defining the flood.
6. Noah brought two representatives (male and female) of all living creatures, and all kinds of food (Genesis 6:19–21). He also brought seven — or seven pairs (ESV) of every kind of clean animal.
7. Noah began sending out birds from the window at the top of the ark after he had been in the ark for a little more than eight months. He first sent out a raven and it returned. Then he sent a dove. It too came back. Seven days later, he sent another dove, and it returned with an olive branch. After another seven days, he sent a dove and it didn’t return. That’s when he knew the ground was drying and it was time to get ready to disembark. Read it in greater detail in Genesis 8:5–16.
8. Noah displayed his gratitude to God by building an altar and making a sacrifice. God responded by making a promise and a covenant with Noah (and all mankind) and sent a display of this promise by means of a rainbow in the sky. (Genesis 8:20–21; 9:9–16)

DOING

1. Drawings could include Noah at the beginning, a small depiction of the ark, a dove, a rainbow at the end, etc. The timeline should include Noah’s commission, ark construction, the animal embarkation, the period of flooding, the period of receding, the ark coming to rest on Mt. Ararat, and the sending of each of the birds, the sacrifice, and the rainbow. The more, the better.
2. Self-explanatory