

Lesson Plan:

Coastal Salish Canoes and Paddles

Recommended for Grades 4-8

Class Time required: 45 minutes or more.

Materials:

- KWL Chart
- Canoes and Paddles Student Information Sheet
- Photos and Drawings

Anticipatory Set:

- Discuss with students that with this lesson they will learn about the different kinds of canoes and paddles and their uses.
- Instruct students to write down what they already know about canoes in the K column of the chart.
- Then have students write down what they would like to learn about canoes and paddles in the W column.

Teacher Led Instruction:

Vocabulary Check:

prow, stern, strait, sandbars, Salish, Puget Sound, Nootka, blunt, blade, cedar, yew, maple

Guided and Independent Practice:

- Review vocabulary with students.
- Discuss with students what they already know about canoes and paddles and what they would like to learn about canoes and paddles.
- Read the text with students, checking for understanding periodically.
- Suggestions for reviewing material:
 - What determined the size of the canoe?
 - What determined the shape of the canoe?

- Name two uses for the Nootka canoe.
- How did the shape of the Nootka canoe make it suited for open seas and high waves?
- Name two ways the shovel or river canoe was different from the Nootka canoe.
- In addition for use in rivers name other areas where shovel or river canoes were used.
- What kind of hunting was done from shovel canoes?
- Describe the shape of the paddles.
- The blade of the paddle was thinner than the rest of the paddle. Why is this important?
- Name another water tool with similar characteristics as the Salish paddle.
- Why was the shape of the paddle used with river canoes different from paddles used with Nootka canoes?
- How did the river canoe paddle shape help move the canoe upstream?
- What did the Indians need to know before building a canoe?
- How did they gather this information?
- What were some of the challenges faced by Indians in building canoes and making paddles?
- Give two examples of how teamwork was necessary for canoe use and movement.
- What kinds of transportation do you and your family use? Describe how teamwork is used with that transportation method.

Closing:

Have students fill in the L column of the chart: What did I Learn? Instruct them to have two pieces of information about what they learned ready to share with the class.

Conduct a concluding discussion about what students learned.

House of Seven Generations Resources:Photos-Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Collection

JST00015	Man paddling in a canoe	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,183
JST00090	Miniature canoe	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,259
JST00016	Charley Hall, canoe builder	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,186
JST00010	Landing a halibut catch	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,178
JST00001	Men in a canoe	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,184
JST00246	Old Clallam Indian making a canoe	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,168
JST00009	Prince family digging clams	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JST1,177

Photos-Florence Reyes MacGregor Family Collection

smg3_00231	Sherry Macgregor, with paddle	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/MAC,329
smg3_00232	Canoe journey	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/MAC,330
smg3_00283	Canoe	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/MAC,383

Documents-Hunting and Gathering Practices

p. 247	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3123
p. 344	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JFR,3220

Artifacts—Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Collection

MC001-paddle	http://www.tribalmuseum.jamestowntribe.org/u?/JSA,19
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Resources from Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe Library

Anonymous, The Information on the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe, Jamestown Tribal Library, Sequim, Washington. pp. 32, 48-51

Castile, George, editor, The Indians of Puget Sound, The Notebooks of Myron Eells, 1985, University of Washington Press: Seattle, Washington. p. 181-95

Lincoln, Leslie, Coast Salish Canoes, 1991, Center for Wooden Boats: Seattle, Washington. p. 31-4

Stewart, Hilary, Cedar, Douglas & McIntyre, Vancouver, B.C. p. 48-60

Stauss, Joseph, The Jamestown S'Klallam Story, 2002, Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe: Sequim, Washington. p. 6



Coast Salish Canoes and Paddles

Types and Uses

The Jamestown S’Klallam people, as all Indians of the Pacific Northwest were skilled in the making and using of canoes. These canoes were not only used in the open ocean and the Straits but also in sheltered waters, Hood Canal and rivers. These dugout canoes were made from cedar trees as long as fifty to sixty feet. The paddles used by the Coast Salish all have the same basic shape but can differ from tribe to tribe or region to region. Wood from various trees was used to make the paddles. These included yew, red and yellow cedar and sometimes maple.

Canoe Types and Uses:

Coast Salish canoes were used mostly on the calm waters of the many bays dotting the Strait of Juan de Fuca, inland waterways, and the Strait itself. This ancient watercraft was used for ferrying people and cargo between spring, summer and winter home sites. They were excellent crafts for fishing seal, salmon, hunting duck and other marine life that sustained the S’Klallam people during the year.

The size and shape of the canoe was determined by the use of the canoe. Two kinds of canoes were generally made: one kind for use in open salt water and another kind for use in more sheltered waters.

The larger canoe, for use in open waters is sometimes called a Nootka canoe. They could be up to 60 feet long and eight feet wide in the center. They were usually about 40 feet in length. They were used for traveling long distances and where the sea could become dangerous. They were used for transporting heavy loads and for carrying as many as 30 warriors. The Nootka canoes were designed with a square stern to make the canoe safe in rough seas and were sharp-ended. This sharp-ended construction was suited for rough water and high waves and meant that this canoe could cut through the water easily, spreading the oncoming seas.

The smaller canoe (sometimes called river or shovel canoe) was used primarily for fishing, traveling on rivers, for hunting ducks and carrying small loads. They were sometimes used on the sound when the waters were calm. These canoes were usually 12 to 30 feet in length and nine to 20 inches in the center. Because of the blunt-ended shape, these canoes were called shovel canoes or at times river canoes. In addition to river travel, this shallow, round bottomed canoe was used along the shore. This shallow canoe, because of the shape was able to slide over sandbars and could be poled or pushed through shallow water. Men fished and hunted from the ends of the canoes. The ends of these canoes were

carved so men could stand on the end or sometimes a platform had been built there. Among other uses, spearing fish and hunting ducks was done from these canoes.

Canoes were made with pride. Some canoes had carved figures on the prow and stern. These figures were often a raven, eagle, killer whale, bear or frog. Figures were painted on the sides of the canoe. The inside was almost always painted red.

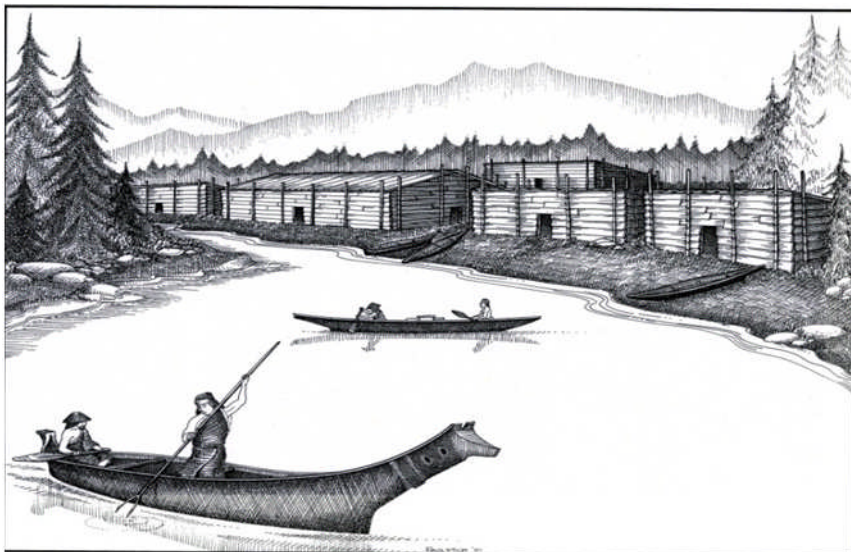
Paddles:



The shape and size of the paddle can vary. Generally, the paddle used by men was about 4 ½ feet long. The blade of the paddle was about two and a half feet (30 inches) long and five inches wide, in the shape of a leaf. Along the blade the paddle was thinner than other parts of the paddle and pointed at the tip. The handle was made from the same piece of wood. The paddle used by women was a shorter and wider across the blade. This was because men and women have different strokes in the water. A woman's stroke was quicker with more splashing than a man's strokes which was deeper and stronger. Paddles had uses other than moving the canoe through the water. Paddles were used for steering the canoe in calm and rough waters, as well as hunting. The sharp tip of the blade speared fish but was also designed to enter the surface of the water in a more skillful way than a blunt tip. Pointed paddles could be used to secure the canoe to the bank or the beach by driving it into the ground. Paddles could be used as weapons during warfare.

River canoes were moved through the water by paddles and poles made of fir. Some river paddles had blades that were shaped differently than ocean paddles. These canoe blades have been described as having a notch in a u shape or a crescent shape. This design helped move the canoe upstream. River poles were also used to push the canoe upriver.

Like canoes, paddles are made with pride. Many are painted with colorful designs. Some are blackened over a fire or stained black. Native pullers are careful that the tip of their paddles never touch the ground. Although it is a useful tool, the tip is also considered sacred because that is the meeting place between the puller and the water.



Traditional S'Klallam
longhouses and canoe types.
(Illustration by Dale Faulstich)

Canoes and Paddles:



Canoe



Canoe on the water



Canoe Building

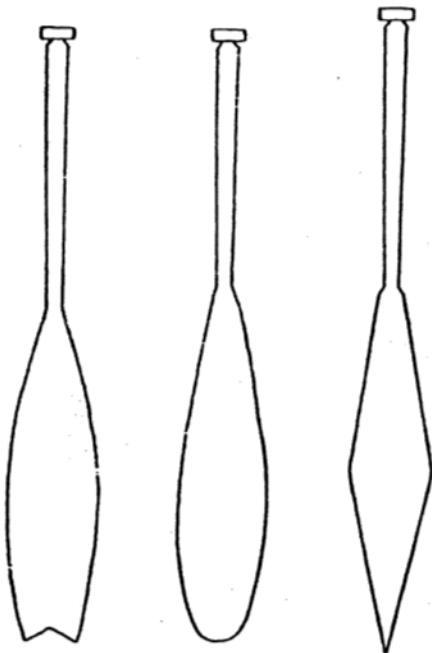
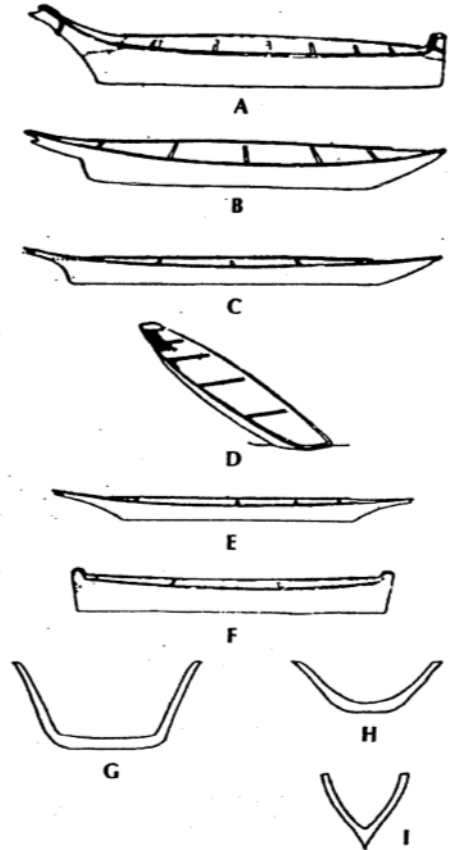


Paddle - hand carved and painted by tribal citizen, Sherry Macgregor.

Canoe Shapes and Paddles:

Northwestern Canoe Shapes:

- (A) Sea-going canoe, 30 to 50 feet long, Cross section at (G) below. Note the 'sitting pieces' sewed on the bow and stern.
- (B) Freight canoe for rivers. Shorter and shallower than (A).
- (C) Hunting canoe, about 10 feet long. The cross section in the center is like (G) but at the bow the hull is sharpened so it practically has a keel.
- (D) Shovel-nose canoe, for rivers, flat and shallow. Cross section at (H).
- (E) One-man canoe for duck hunting. Sharp cutwater at bow and stern as in figure (I).
- (F) Knock-about canoe used for sealing and, recently, for racing.
- (G) Cross section of (A), (B), (C).
- (H) Cross section of (D).
- (I) Cross section of (E), (F).

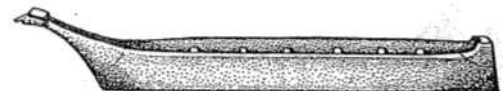


Canoe Paddles:

Center is the usual shape. Notched one fits over a tow rope. Pointed one is driven into the beach as a stake for the canoe.



A canoe this large was for trading and visiting other tribes



Canoe large enough for fishing in the ocean.



Two person canoe for fishing and hunting ducks

KWL Chart

What do I know?	What do I want to find out?	What did I learn?