

TRADITIONAL TRANSPORTATION: PADDLES GR: PREK-2 (LESSON 4)

Elder Quote/Belief: *“The blades of the Sugpiaq-Alutiiq paddles are very thin and the paddles are therefore extremely light and feel quite dainty.”-Harvey Goldenⁱ*

Grade Level: PreK-2

Overview: The Sugpiaq paddle is designed to fit the hunter and be very quiet in the water. Paddles were traditionally made using body measurement for the blade and shaft length, and hand measurements for the blade width. Traditional designs were then painted on the paddles using natural paints from oar and plants.

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
D5: Culturally-knowledgeable students are able to engage effectively in learning activities that are based on traditional ways of knowing and learning.	F1: A Student should understand the dynamic relationships among scientific, cultural, social and personal perspectives.	S7 Students should know how to make tools from natural resources in the outdoor environment.

Lesson Goal: Learn about the Sugpiaq paddle shape and designs. Color and cut out a paddle to take home. The students will be learning the song “Tuguis, Tuguis”/“Row, Row, Row Your Boat” in Sugt’stun.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Listen and sing the song “Tuguis, Tuguis”.
- Color a picture of a Sugpiaq style paddle with traditional colors and designs

Vocabulary Words: Sugt’stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
Paddle	paqun	paqun	kAwusgL
Row	tuguis	tuguis	
Kayak	Qayaq	Qayaq	gAyAXgug

Materials/Resources Needed:

- If possible, invite an Elder or Recognized Expert from the Region to share their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and expertise to enrich the lesson(s).
- Paddle Blade Template (Included)
- Markers or Crayons (Not Included)
- Scissors (Not Included)
- Full length paddle from kit
- Video: [“Tuguis Tuguis”/“Row, Row, Row Your Boat” sung by Ephimia Moonin-Wilson](#)
- Book: [The Chugach Eskimo pg. 45-51](#)

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite an Elder or Recognized Expert that could share their TEK expertise on the lesson content.
- Before the Elder or Recognized Expert arrives, please review with all of the students, ways to show respect for the Elder during their visit.
- Watch video and Listen to [“Tuguis Tuguis”/“Row, Row, Row Your Boat” in Sugt’stun](#)
- Make copies of the paddle template for each student.
- Review the paddle measurements in [Chugach Eskimo](#), p. 46-48. Make copy to read.
- Prepare a chart to measure students for paddle height and blade width.

Opening:

The Sugpiaq and Eyak of the Chugach region used a single bladed paddle to navigate the kayak, anyaq and dugout canoe. The paddles were carved from a single piece of spruce, hemlock or driftwood. The Sugpiaq carved the paddles with stone tools made from slate or green stone rocks. The length of the paddles is determined by: type of boat, paddler’s height and hand width. Some paddles were painted and decorated with designs or hunting scenes. These measurements can be references in *Chugach Eskimo*, pages 46-48.

The Sugpiaq paddle was made with a long tip and narrow blade to reduce wind resistance and so the paddle would enter the water without any noise. Being quiet was important for paddler to sneak up on a seal or sea lion.

Today, we will color a Sugpiaq paddle, learn how to sing “*Tuguis, Tuguis (Row, Row, Row Your Boat)*” in Sugt’stun and together as a class we will measure each student to see how big an actual paddle would be based on traditional measuring methods.

Activities:

Class I:

1. Introduce Elder/Recognized Expert if available. Allow time for students to ask questions.
2. Gather students to view paddle examples and learn the parts of a paddle in Sugt’stun and Eyak.
3. Coloring the Paddle
 - a. Give each student the paddle template.
 - b. Ask the student to color their paddles. Encourage students to use designs or nature scenes to decorate their paddle.
 - c. Ask students to cut the paddle out and display for all to see.
4. If time allows, measure each student for their specific sized paddle according to traditional ways.
5. Listen and sing “*Tuguis Tuguis*”/“*Row, Row, Row Your Boat*” in Sugt’stun.

Assessment:

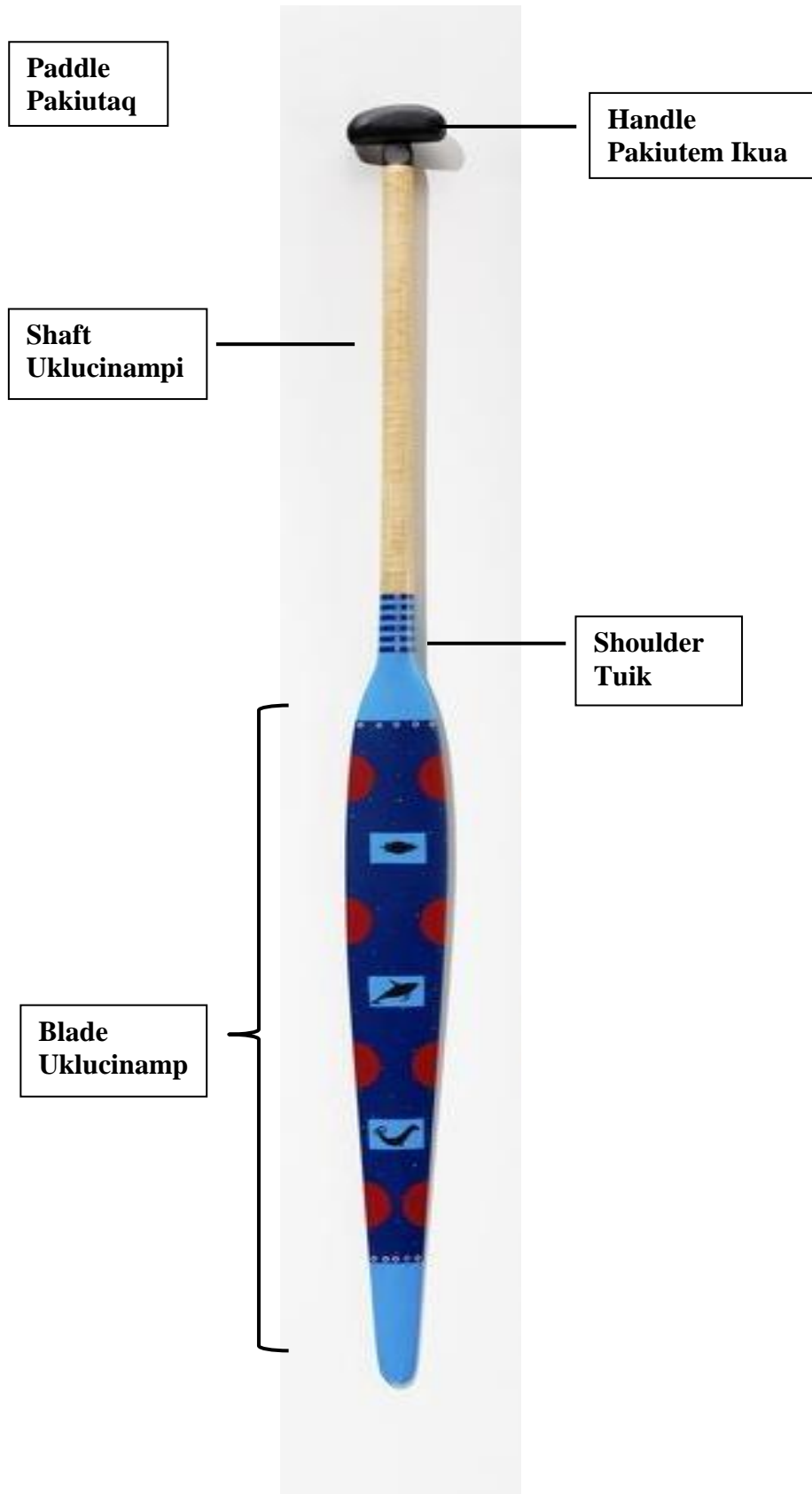
Students can explain how the traditional way to measure for building a paddle.

Students complete coloring paddle with traditional colors.

Students are able to sing “*Tuguis Tuguis*”/“*Row, Row, Row Your Boat*” in Sugt’stun.

¹ *Kayaks of Alaska* page 460

English and Sugt'stun vocabulary



Sugpiaq Paddle Template

