

TRADITIONAL TRANSPORTATION: DUGOUT CANOE GR: PREK-2 (LESSON 6)

Elder Quote/Belief:



“Summer came and they would go around by boat. They made their first dugout canoes. They chopped down large cottonwood, and fashioned that into a canoe. They went in that into Eyak Lake. Then they tried spruce instead of cotton wood. That too was good. They carved large boats out of spruce.”

-Anna Nelson Harry ¹

Anna Nelson Harry, Yakutat, about 1975. (Photo courtesy of Richard Dauenhauer)

Grade Level: PreK-2

Overview: The Eyak and Sugpiaq people traditionally carved dugout canoes in the Chugach Region, specifically in Prince William Sound. “The canoes were so seaworthy that they were used not just for interisland voyages to visit relatives or allies, but also to wage war and to engage in trade missions over hundreds of miles. In fact, dugout canoes plied the waters between Southeast Alaska, (Eyak) and Kodiak Island in the days before the coming of Europeans”. (Echo’s <http://www.echospace.org/articles/273/sections/665.html>)

Standards:

<i>AK Cultural:</i>	<i>AK Content Science:</i>	<i>CRCC:</i>
<p>E4: Culturally-knowledgeable students demonstrate an awareness and appreciation of the relationships and processes of interaction of all elements in the world around them. A student should determine how ideas and concepts from one knowledge system relate to those derived from another knowledge system.</p>	<p>B2: A student should understand and be able to apply the concepts, models, theories, universal principles, and facts that explain the physical world.</p>	<p>MC1: Different kinds of wood have different qualities and different uses; wood can be obtained from the forest and from driftwood.</p>

Lesson Goal: To learn about the basic construction process of the dugout canoe and make a small simulation out of modeling clay.

Lesson Objective(s): Students will:

- Understand how spruce logs were carved using tools into a canoe.
- Learn the uses and purpose of the dugout canoe.
- Learn about other cultural groups who also used the dugout canoe for travel.

Vocabulary Words: Sugt'stun Dialects

English:	Prince William Sound:	Lower Cook Inlet:	Eyak:
Spruce	Napak	Napak	lis
Cottonwood	ciquq	ciquq	t'AXgsg
Canoe	pattakun	pattakun	AXAkih
Adze		Tupuuluq	XAt'aa

Materials/Resources Needed:

- Elder or Recognized Expert to share their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and expertise on subject.
- Modeling Clay
- Plastic clay carving tools.
- Paint (Crayola Acrylic) and paint brushes
- Plastic cloth for painting station
- Construction paper for modeling clay work
- Model of dugout canoe

Books:

- *Jason's New Dugout Canoe* by Joe Barber-Starkley
- *Qayaqs & Canoes; Native Ways of Knowing* by Jan Steinbright
- *Eyak Legends: Stories and Photographs*. Anchorage: Chugach Heritage Foundation.

Teacher Preparation:

- Invite an Elder or Recognized Expert to share TEK expertise.
- Review with students regarding the proper ways to host and respect a guest in classroom.
- Collect the materials and resources needed from the kit.
- Construction paper for each student to use as a placemat to work on at desks/tables
- Cut rectangular pieces of modeling clay approximately 2"x 5" for each students to carve
- Divide students into small working groups to share plastic carving tools.
- Display poster board picture and the model of the dugout canoe.

Opening: Sugpiaq and Eyak people of the Chugach Region developed distinct styles of boats used for travel to gather resources, transport people, hunt, and attend celebrations. Today, we are going to learn about the dugout canoe from the Eyak people.

Activities:

Class I:

1. If available, introduce the Elder or Recognize Expert to share TEK expertise and stories.

2. Students will gather to view model of a dugout canoe. Pass around the model to see the craftsmanship used to build the canoe. Share the diagram of dugout canoe construction explaining the process; cutting down of tree, carving and hollowing out the log, steaming open the boat with fire heated rocks and sea water to expand the gunwales.
3. Read the story *Jason's New Dugout Canoe* by Joe Barber-Starkley out loud to class.
4. Students will return to work station to make a dugout canoe with modeling clay.
5. Provide each student with a rectangular piece of modeling clay approximately 2"x 5".
6. Using the included plastic tools, have the students carve and hollow out their clay to make a dugout canoe.
 - a. Note: if using the tools is too complicated, students can also use their fingers and mold a canoe from the clay.
7. When students complete their canoe, instruct students to place the canoe in a designated area for drying. Expect drying to take 24-48 hours.
8. Once the clay dugout canoes have dried, they are ready to paint with the paints.
9. Allow the paint to dry overnight.
10. Take a picture of students with their projects to share.

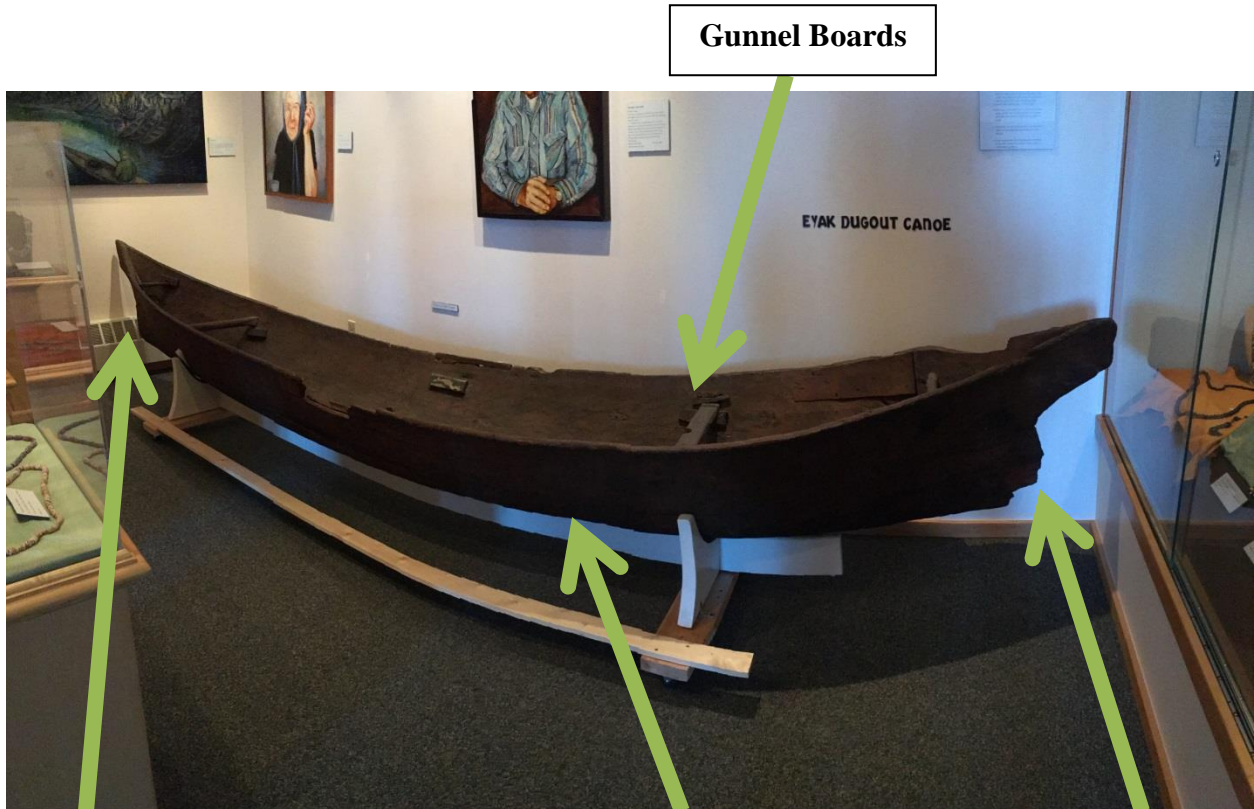
Assessment:

- Students can describe the basics of how a dugout canoe is constructed.
- Students can explain who uses the dugout canoe and what it was used for.
- Students constructed a close replica of the dugout canoe out of modeling clay.



Eyak Dugout Canoe, Ray Moss Collection, Alaska Historical Library

Parts of an Eyak Dugout Canoe



Dugout Canoe located at the Ilanka Center in Cordova (Photo courtesy of Kari Brookover)

Stern

Keel

Bulbous Bow

¹ Eyak Legends page 104 Recorded in 1965, Yakutat.