
Our Canoe Story



Unit Vocabulary

Aboard



Definition: on, or, in, the canoe

Example: They are aboard the canoe.

Access or Access point

Definition: the place on the shore of a lake or river where you put in or take out the canoe.



Example: They are at the access point, ready to embark on their journey.

Afloat



Definition: floating; not stuck on a rock or sandbar.

Example: They are at the access point, ready to embark on their journey.

Aground

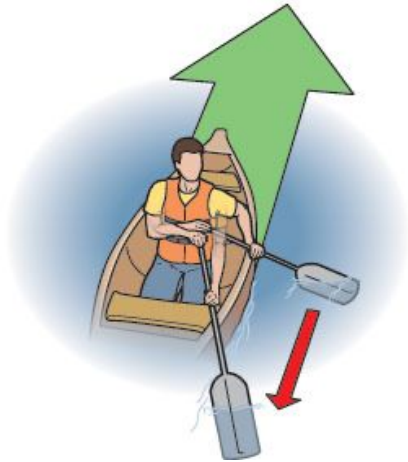
Definition: stuck, usually on a shoal or rock, when you did not intend to be.



Example: The orange boat was aground.

Backpaddle

Definition: paddling backward to slow or reverse the forward motion of a canoe.



Example: The man performed a backpaddle to move himself backward.

Bail

Definition: to empty water from a craft by scooping it out with anything from a sponge to a tin can.



Example: The man began to bail water from his canoe to keep from sinking.

Bailer

Definition: anything used to bail out a canoe (one of the most effective is an old plastic bottle with the bottom cut off).



Example: They used a purple bailer to empty water from the bottom of the canoe.

Beam

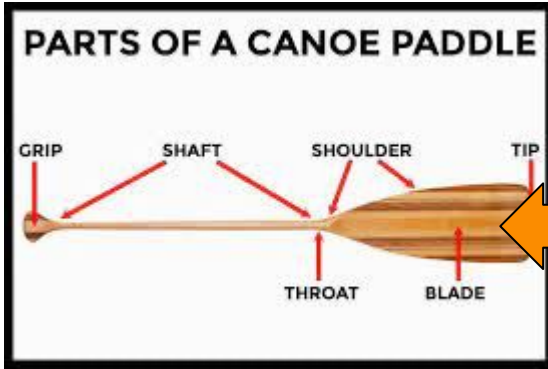
Definition: width of a canoe when measured at its widest point.



Example: The beam was 36 inches wide.

Blade

Definition: the wide, flat end of a paddle.



Example: The blade was made of wood and had a striped appearance.

Bottom



Definition: the part of the canoe that is under the water.

Example: The bottom of the red canoe nearly touched the sand.

Bow

Definition: the front or extreme forward end of the canoe.



Example: The paddle was resting on the bow.

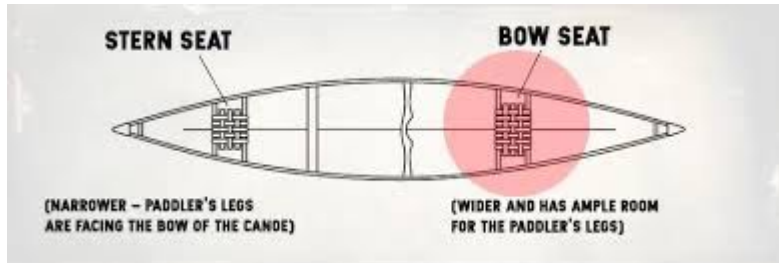
Bow-Paddler



Definition: the person who paddles in the bow.

Example: The lady in the pink shirt was the bow-paddler.

Bow Seat



Definition: the seat located at the front end of a canoe.

Example: The bow seat is at the front and has lots of room for the paddler's legs.

Bridle



Definition: a line looped around the front end of the canoe to which another is attached under the canoe and used for towing the craft.

Example: The man used the bridle to pull the canoe to safety.

Canadian Canoe

Definition: in Europe an open canoe is referred to as a Canadian or North American Indian canoe.



Example: This white Canadian canoe is fully open at the top.

Capsize

Definition: what happens when you are gobbled up in whitewater, or flipped by a combination of wind and waves, or well, it shouldn't happen.



Example: The rapids caused the green canoe to capsize.

Drag



Definition: the resistance to forward motion; drag may be decreased by the use of special waxes.

Example: The green bucket at the back of this canoe is causing significant drag.

Draw or Draw Stroke

Definition: a stroke in which the blade is placed well out from the canoe and pulled directly toward the side of the canoe; designed to move the craft sideways.



Example: The man performed a draw stroke to move himself sideways, away from the dock.

Face

Definition: the side of a blade pushing against the water.



Example: The woman made a splash with the face of her paddle.

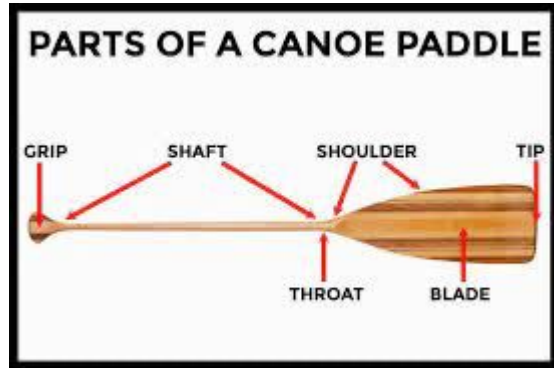
Flatwater



Definition: calm river water without rapids; lake water.

Example: The canoeists headed out onto the smooth flatwater.

Grip



Definition: the top of a paddle; the two most popular shapes are pear grip and the T grip - the former is used for general canoeing and the latter is favored by whitewater canoeists.

Example: Make sure your hand is firmly on the grip.

Gunnel

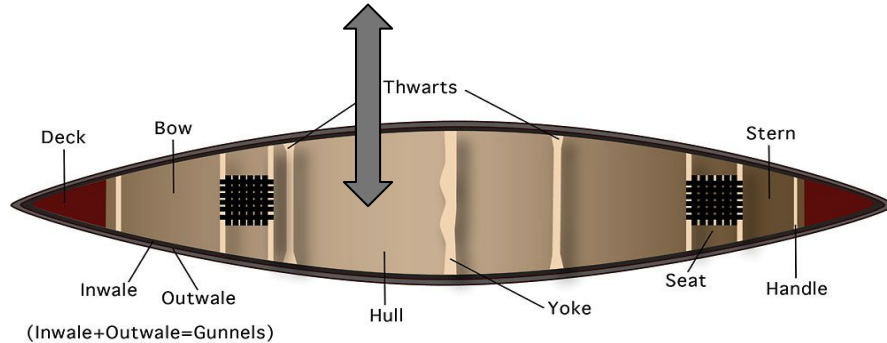


Definition: the section along the top of the canoe from stern to bow where the sides meet; a strip along the top of the canoe's sides.

Example: The boy was being risky, standing on the gunnels!

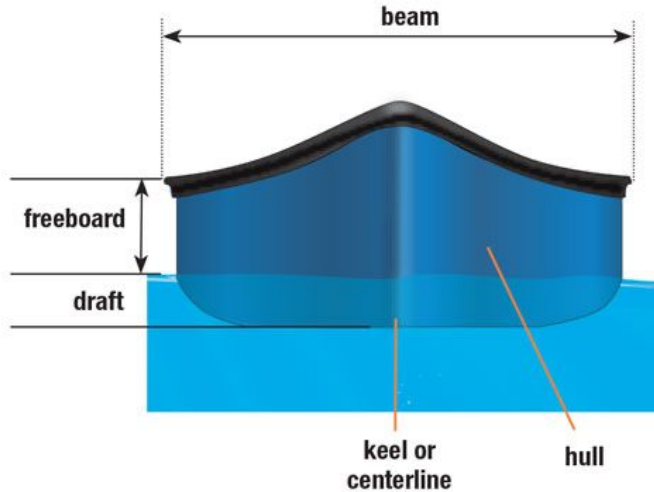
Hull

Definition: the lower half of a kayak or closed canoe, or the main structure of an open canoe.



Example: The hull stores the canoeists gear.

Keel



Definition: a projection below the hull, running from stern to bow, which adds strength to the hull, protects it from damage, and helps the craft maintain straight movement. Keels usually are found only on aluminum and wooden canoes.

Example: The strength of the keel kept us afloat when we hit the rocks.

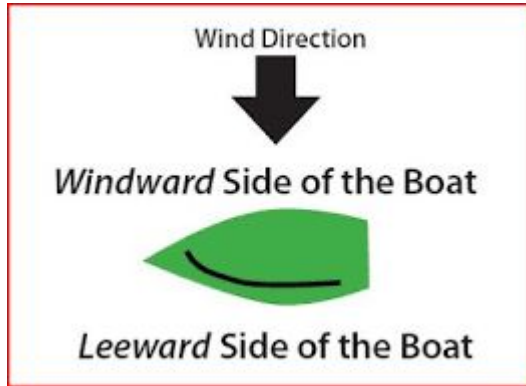
Launch



Definition: to slide a craft (i.e. canoe) into the water.

Example: The canoeists proceeded to launch their wooden canoe from the rocky beach.

Lee, Leeward



Definition: away from the wind; downwind (opposite of windward).

Example: Start paddling on the leeward side to better fight the wind pushing against the boat!

Off side



Definition: the side opposite to the side where the canoeist is paddling.

Example: The orange buoy was on the off side.

Paddle

Definition: the instrument used to propel a canoe through the water; it is not an “oar.”

Example: A paddle can come in many shapes and sizes.



PFD - Personal Flotation Device



Definition: The term used to designate life jackets. Do not use any PFD that is not approved for a person of your weight.

Example: The canoeist was being safe, wearing her red and black PFD.

Pivot

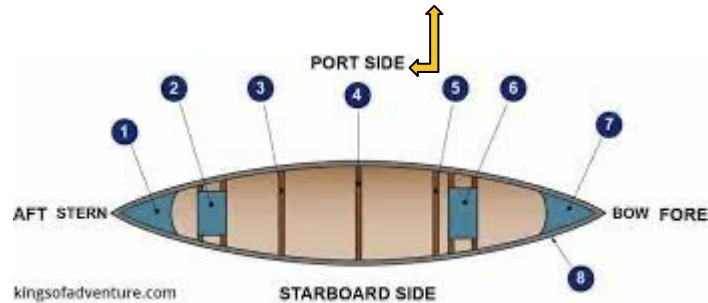
Definition: to turn sharply, or to pivot the craft around a point.



Example: The bald man needs to pivot around the obstacles to complete the race.

Port

Definition: the left side of the canoe when facing the bow.



Example: There was a bear along the shoreline on the port side.

Portage

Definition: how you get your gear and canoe across a stretch of land between two bodies of water. A solid reason why canoe-campers, like backpackers, attempt to reduce their gear to the lightest load possible.



Example: The group had to portage to the next lake.

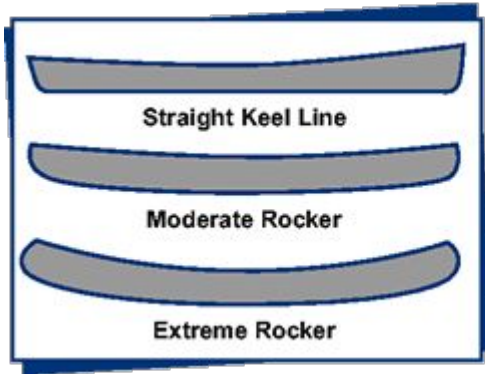
Pry Stroke

Definition: a paddle stroke used to move the craft sideways, away from the paddle.



Example: After we launched, I used the pry stroke to move me away from the shore.

Rocker



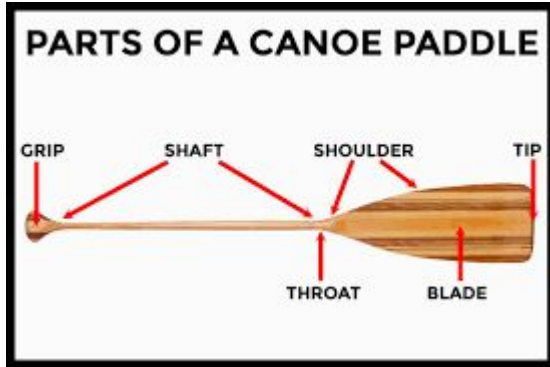
Rocker

Definition: the upward sweep of the keel toward the bow and stern. The more pronounced the rocker, the easier the canoe is to pivot.

Example: An extreme rocker is best for canoe obstacle courses.

Shaft

Definition: the handle of the canoe paddle between the grip and the blade.

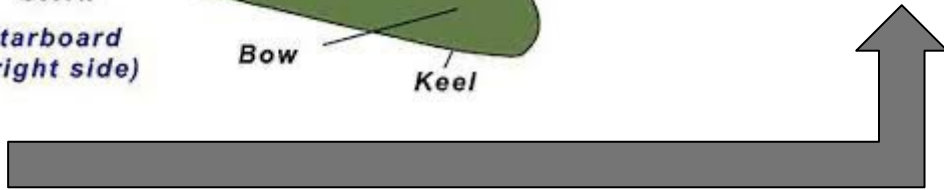
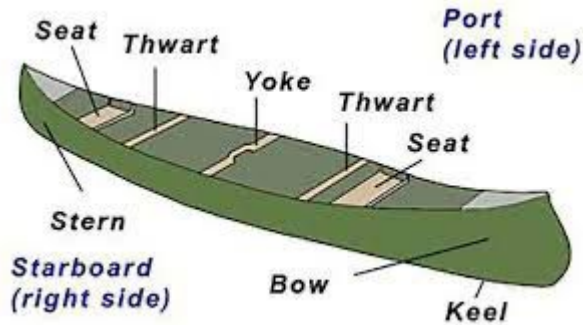


Example: The shaft snapped when the paddle slammed against the big rock.

Starboard

Definition: the right side of the canoe when facing the bow.

Example: The other canoe approached me on my starboard side.



Stern

Definition: the rear of the canoe.



Example: The man sat at the stern and the woman at the bow.

Stern Paddler

Definition: the person who paddles from the rear of a two-man (person) canoe or C-2.



Example: The stern paddler was enjoying the view.

Strokes

Definition: the various movements used by the paddler to control the direction and speed of the craft.

Example: There are many different paddle strokes and they each have a different purpose.



Swamp

Definition: when a canoe is accidentally filled with water.



Example: Don't swamp the canoe like this guy did!!

Take-out



Definition: where you end your trip; the take-out point.

Example: The group of canoeists made in back to the take-out point and were excited to be done the trip.

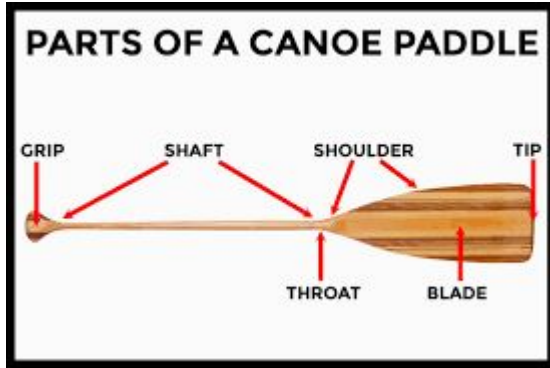
Throwline



Definition: an emergency rope used to throw out to a canoe in trouble.

Example: The canoeist threw out a throwline to help save his fellow canoer.

Tip



Definition: the end of the paddle blade opposite the shaft.

Example: Don't slam your tip into the dirt or it might get damaged.

Voyageurs



Definition: the canoe trappers and traders of another era.

Example: The voyageurs navigated the rough water with ease.

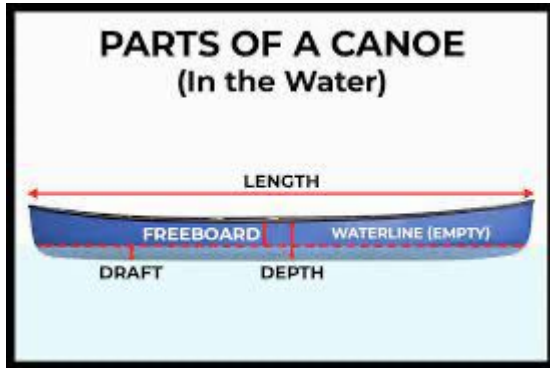
Wake

Definition: the temporary trail in the water behind the canoe; also called the “wash.” Beginning canoeists should peek occasionally at their wake to see if it is a straight line, which indicates good directional control

Example: The wake left behind the canoe could be seen from overhead.



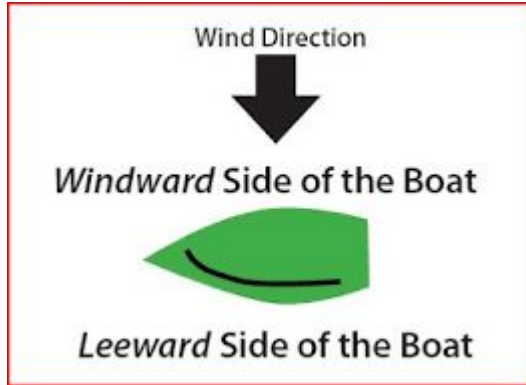
Waterline



Definition: the line of water on the side of the canoe when it is afloat. The waterline will vary with the load (i.e. weight in the canoe).

Example: The waterline started to rise as we added more supplies to the canoe.

Windward



Definition: the direction from which the wind is blowing; into the wind (opposite of leeward).

Example: Paddle on the windward side and we can take advantage of the wind and go super fast!

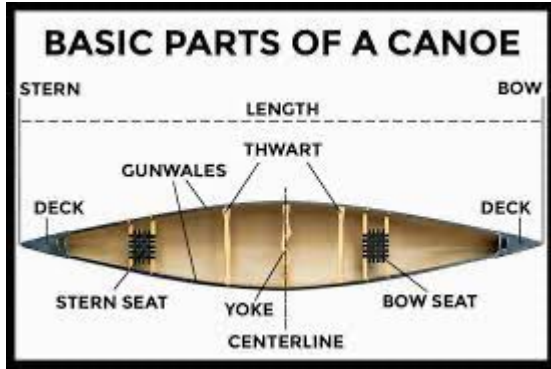
Yaw



Definition: when a canoe swerves from its course.

Example: The canoeists did not mean for the canoe to yaw so far from the route.

Yoke



Definition: cushioned shoulder blocks that clamp onto the gunnels or midthwart of a canoe to make portaging by one person easier.



Example: Never step on the yoke!

Our Canoe Story



Sentence Stems

What is a sentence stem?

Sentence stems are **a phrase or part of a sentence with a missing part.**

Why are they important to vocabulary development?

Sentence stems **help to improve students' language proficiency, in turn improving their communication and writing.** They improve fundamental language skills as well as higher-level thinking skills, familiarizing students with sentence structure, linguistic ability, and lesson content all at once.

Examples: Our Canoe Story Sentence Stems

- The captain came **aboard** so...
 - We drove to the **access/access point** and...
 - The boat managed to stay **afloat** because...
 - The canoe was **aground** when...
 - We had to **backpaddle** because...
 - Hurry, we need to **bail** or...
 - They had a good **bailer** but...
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