

The Juneau-Douglas City Museum
Phone 586-3572 • Fax 586-3203 • Located at 4th and Main Streets
museum.info@juneau.org

Make your own Canoe

Materials:

- 1 piece of card stock or other heavy paper for each student
- pencil for tracing template (tracer)
- scissors
- scotch tape
- markers/ crayons for decorating canoe

Preparation:

Make copies of the template for each student on card stock **OR** have students share the included templates to trace their own canoe on card stock or other heavy paper.

Procedure:

1. Cut out the canoe template along the thick black lines, making sure to cut the tabs out too.
2. Trace the template (tracer) on a piece of card stock, construction, or other sturdy paper- this will be your canoe.
3. Cut out your canoe out along the thick black lines, again making sure to cut the tabs out too.
4. Create your own design- *The Tlingit paint the design on their canoes after the canoe is finished; however, we are going to start with the design because that way we can work on a flat surface. Remind students about the information in included packet on Tlingit way of life and the importance of canoes and what the designs symbolize.*
5. Fold tabs up and tape to the inside of the canoe.
6. Make 2 small donuts of tape (one for each end of the canoe.)
7. Place donuts on the “X” marks and pinch the ends together
8. Name your canoe!

Discussion Questions:

Review the process of how a real canoe is made (as described in the sequencing activity).

- How is the real process different from how you constructed your paper canoe?

Have kids share their canoes with the rest of the class, explaining the design and name of the canoe.

Looking at the students' canoes in front of the photo, discuss how the area has changed:

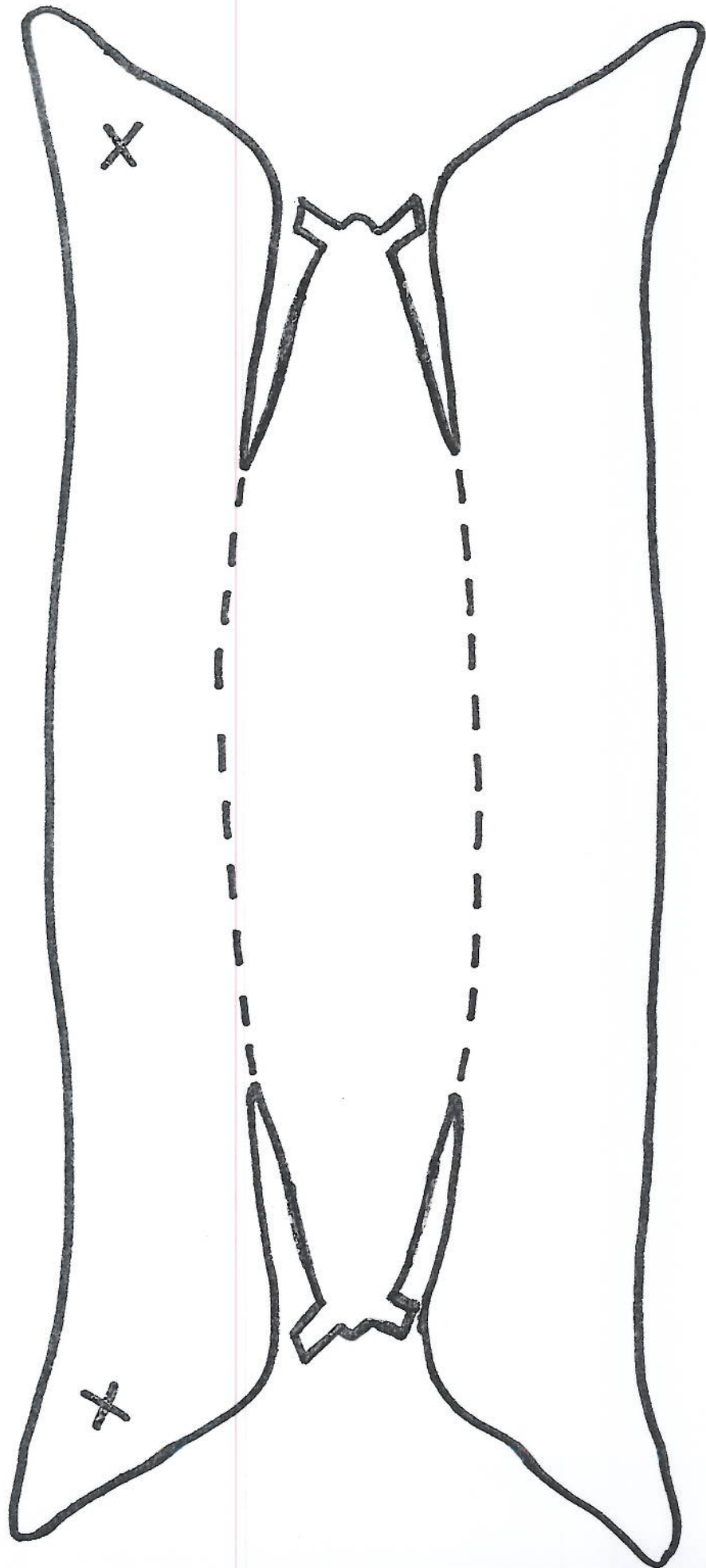
- Are there still boats in that part of Juneau?
- What other ways do we travel now?
- How have those modes of travel changed the appearance of the area (i.e. driveways for cars, roadways, bridges, harbors, etc.)?

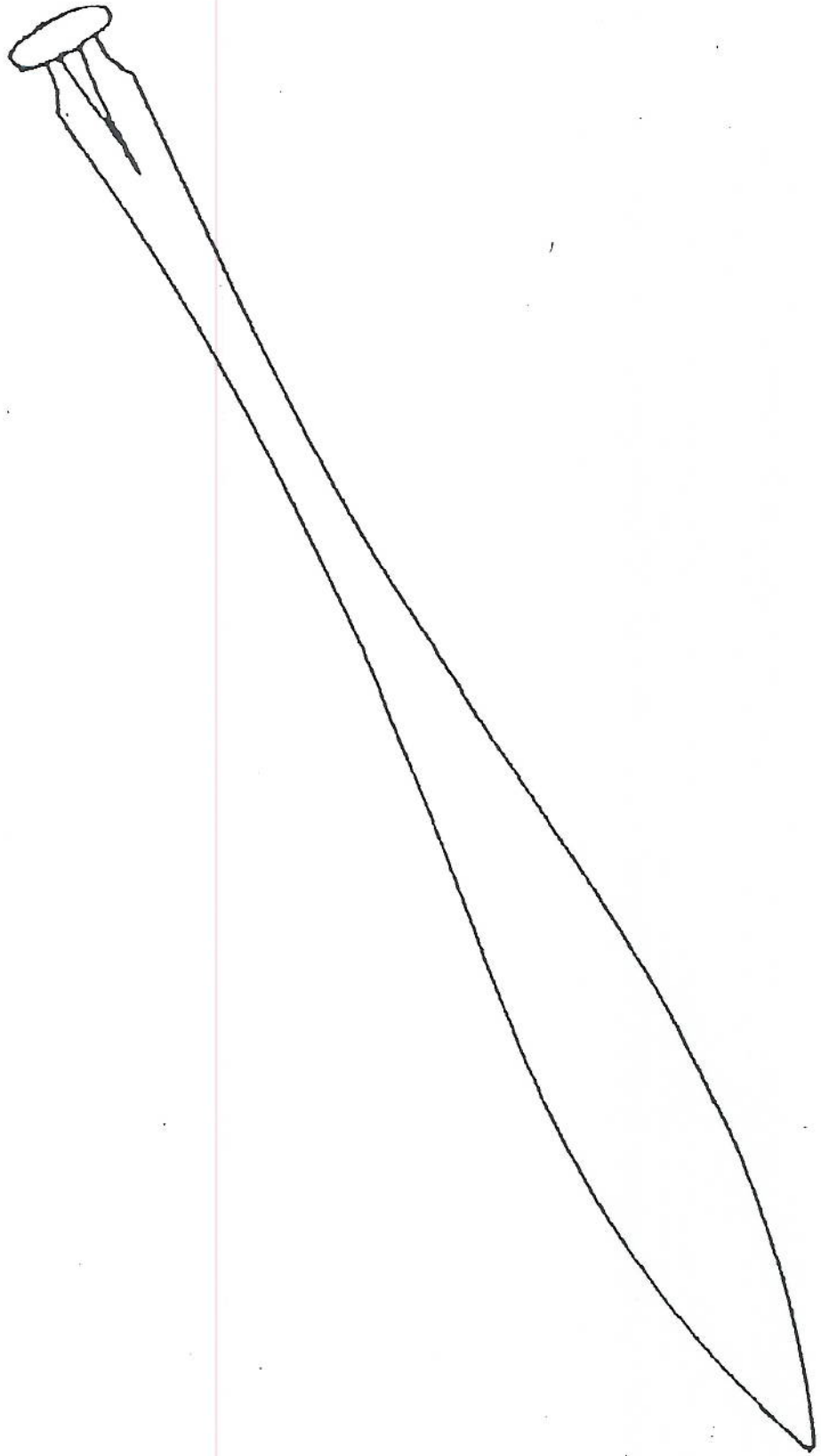
Ask the students why they think the canoes in the photo are covered with blankets. (To keep the canoes from drying out and cracking.) Explain the importance of maintenance to ensure the usefulness of one's canoe.

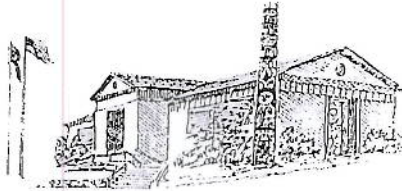
Extension:

Here are a few suggestions for expanding the activity.

1. Have a canoe race
2. Use the canoes as pencil/ pen/ marker holders on the student's desk.
3. Use the canoes as game pieces in a familiar classroom game







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Name _____

Date _____

Give the canoe at the Juneau-Douglas City Museum a name:

Decorate the bow or front of the canoe with a design that has to do with its name.

