



Learn facts about the contents of the canoe, using the mouse to scroll over the different items.

Canoe Poster

The voyageurs travelled in large canoes called *Canots du maître* on their fur trading expeditions to Lake Superior. The entire journey took many months and the voyageurs met numerous challenges along the way. The canoe contained mostly everything they needed for trading for furs and for their long expedition.

Examining a Voyageur's Canoe

- The voyageurs used the items in the canoe for trading and as supplies needed for their journey.
 - With a partner, make a list of the items.
 - Think about how to group the items according to their use.
 - Decide on 3 categories and record each item under one or more of the categories.
 - Share and explain your chart with another pair.
- Examine the poster to see how much weight the canoe will hold. The weights for some of the cargo are provided. For items where there is no weight indicated, estimate the weight. Using these amounts, calculate the estimated weight of the cargo. How close is your estimation to the cargo weight that the canoe will hold?
- The canoe hits a rock and springs a leak! Identify the items that the voyageurs would use to repair the canoe and tell how each would be used.
- For one voyage, a family of three (father, mother, and young child) are passengers. Decide which items would be left behind to make room. Consider the following:
 - Weight
 - Purpose of the items
 - Time of the year
 - Space needed
- After the trading, the voyageurs make the return trip to Montreal. The cargo is different. What would the new items be? What items from the original cargo would be needed? Explain your choices.