

Name _____

Skill: Reading Comprehension

Read the story and answer the questions.

The Canoe

A canoe is a long, light, narrow boat with both ends sharply pointed. Most canoes also have curved sides. It is usually propelled, or moved along, by a paddle. The word "canoe" is a word given to small simple boats such as these. There have been many types of canoes throughout history. It could be that the first canoe was a hollowed-out floating log. The difference in a canoe may depend on the country where it was made, the materials available to make it or the purpose for which the canoe was made. American Indians made canoes out of logs. Some of these were small and could go fast. Others were large and slow, but could carry many people. The Canadian Indians made canoes out of bark which was attached to a wooden frame. These canoes were light and fast and were strong enough to survive rough waters. Eskimos made small kayaks, another type of canoe, out of seal skins that were stretched and sewn together over a light wooden frame. Kayaks were small, holding only one person. That person had to use a paddle that had a blade on each end of it. Today, small canoes and kayaks are made of many different materials and are used all over the world just for fun and at many sporting events.



1. What is the main idea of this story? (Circle the answer.)

- A. Eskimos made small, one-person canoes.
- B. There are many different kinds of canoes.
- C. You cannot paddle a canoe around the world.

2. What could the first canoe have been like?

3. What are some things that might make one canoe differ from another?

4. What were Canadian Indian canoes like?

5. The word "propel" means: (Circle the answer.)

- A. to clean
- B. to uncover
- C. to move along