The Life Cycle of a Canoe

Written and illustrated by

Romaine Culpepper
with the aid of her 3rd Grade class

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Romaine Culpepper

Ms. Culpepper began teaching at Taholah elementary School on the Quinault Indian Reservation in 1999. Previously, she taught for twelve years at the Quileute Tribal school on the Quileute Indian Reservation. She also worked for the Timberland Regional Library system as a children's librarian and a community librarian. She has taught in both the Elma and the South Kitsap school districts. She finds time for her grown daughter, two appaloosa horses, an inside cat and three outside cats.
The canoe is ending its journey.
Many are using the canoe.

A Makah man sits on upended half-carved canoe, taking off wood chips with a D-adze; there are finished canoes pulled up onto beach visible behind him. Washington, 1914.

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The Canoe Maker is selecting a red cedar tree.

The Canoe Maker and his helper are finishing the canoe. They add the bow and the stern. They paint the inside and char the outside.
They are hollowing out the canoe. They are steaming the canoe to make it wide.

He thanks the tree for its wood to make a canoe. He and the helper are felling the tree by burning and chiseling.
The Canoe Maker and his helper are splitting the tree with mauls and wedges.

The Canoe Maker and his helper are shaping the tree with adzes.