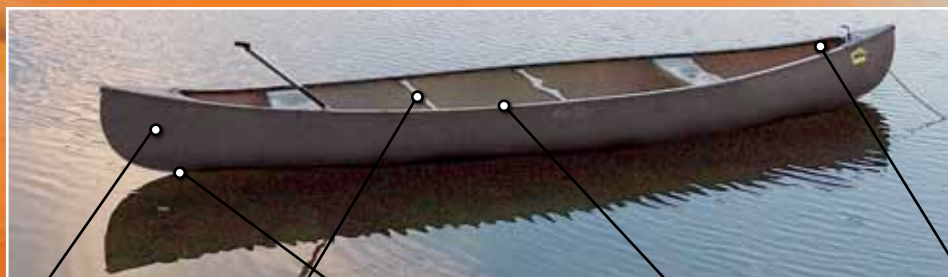


Paddle your Way around a Canoe

Below is a canoe with the parts identified.

- The front of a canoe is the bow.
- The back is the stern.
- The top edges are gunwales (gun-nels).
- The line down the center of a canoe is called the center line.
- The bars across the open part of the canoe are called thwarts. Thwarts make the canoe strong.



Stern



Thwarts



Center line



Gunwales



Bow

Paddles also have different parts.

- The top of a paddle is the grip or handle.
- Below the grip is the shaft.
- The part that moves you through the water at the bottom of the paddle is the blade.



Blade



Grip



Shaft

When canoeing, always stay in the center of the boat to keep the canoe balanced. If your canoe is not balanced, it will capsize or flip more easily. Remember to load your gear evenly too.