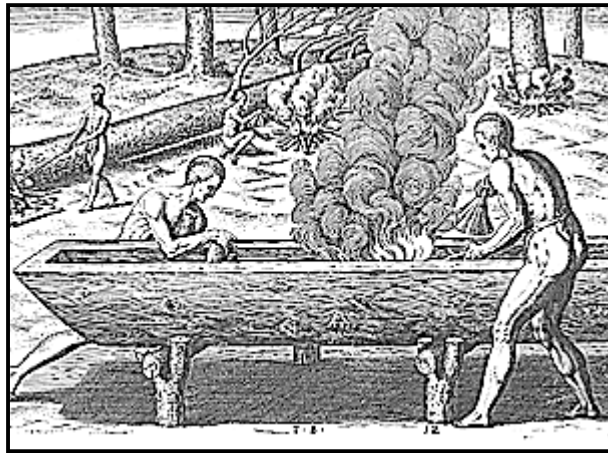


Dugout Canoes

Birchbark canoes transported Indians over the fast-moving rocky streams and rivers of the Northeast. Unlike those canoes, heavier dugout canoes were used for larger waterways and lakes – and even coastal ocean travel.

Indians used fire in conjunction with stone axes and scrapers to fell a tree and hollow it out to shape the canoe. Historian Jeremy Belknap reported that a single Indian might work for ten or twelve days to create a dugout canoe from a pine or chestnut tree. When finished he would have a boat that, depending on its length, might transport as many as twenty or even thirty men.

If you visit the New Hampshire Historical Society Museum's exhibit *New Hampshire through Many Eyes*, you will see for yourself a dugout canoe dating from between 1430 and 1660. The pine canoe was discovered buried in sand on the shores of Lake Ossipee.



Engraving by Theodor de Bry, 1590