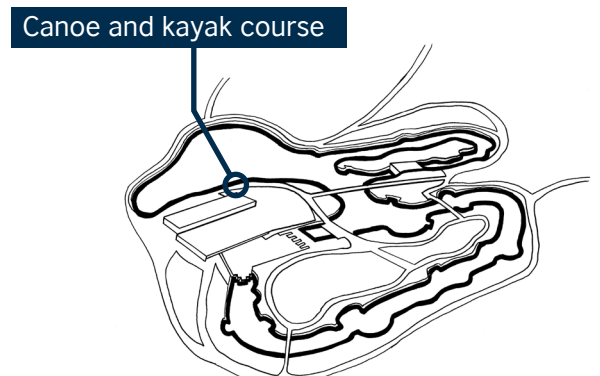
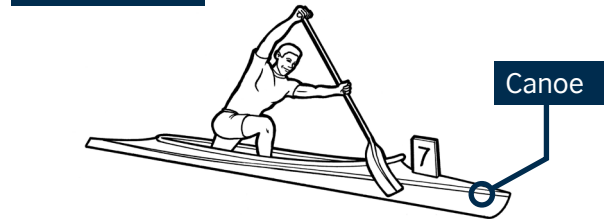
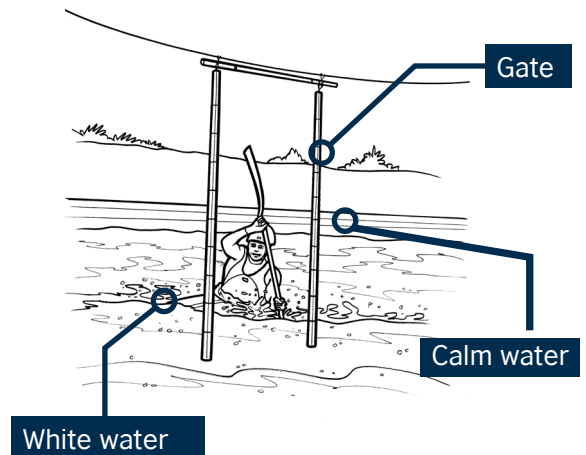
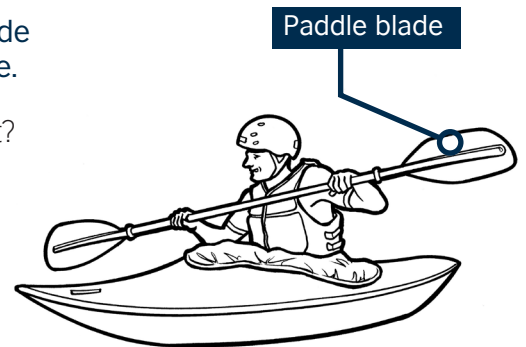


Canoe/Kayak

When athletes come together from around the world to compete in the Olympic and Paralympic Games, they are fulfilling their dreams and competing at the highest level. Billions of people across the globe join in; watching, listening to and reading about the greatest global celebration of sport. To celebrate the London 2012 Games, the British Council is making a wide range of classroom resources available for learners of English worldwide.

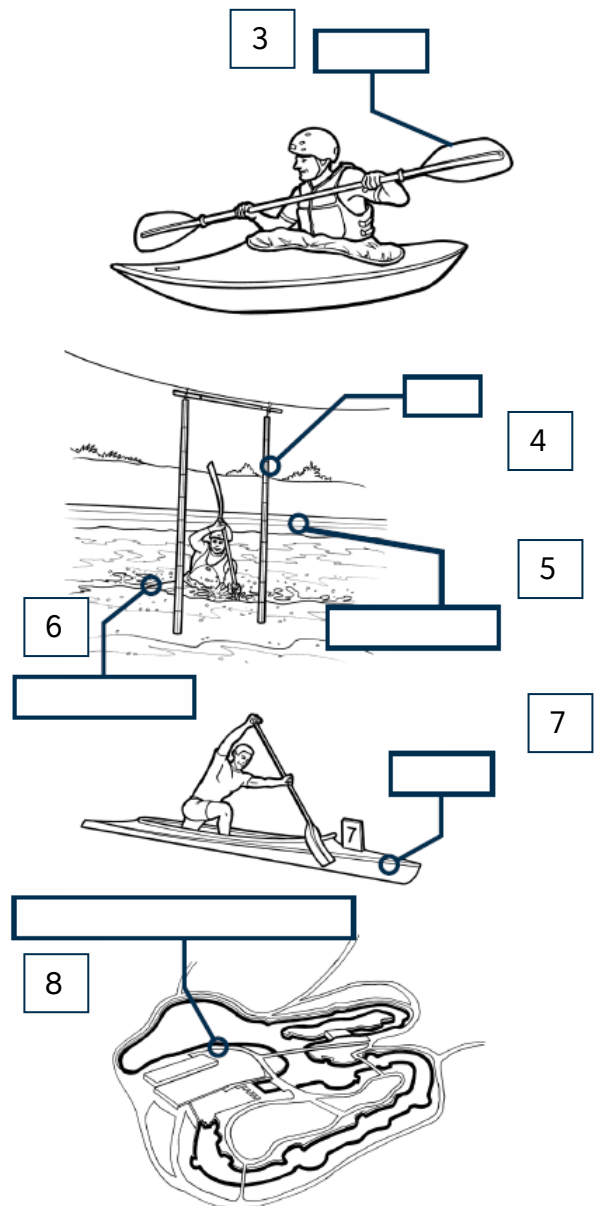
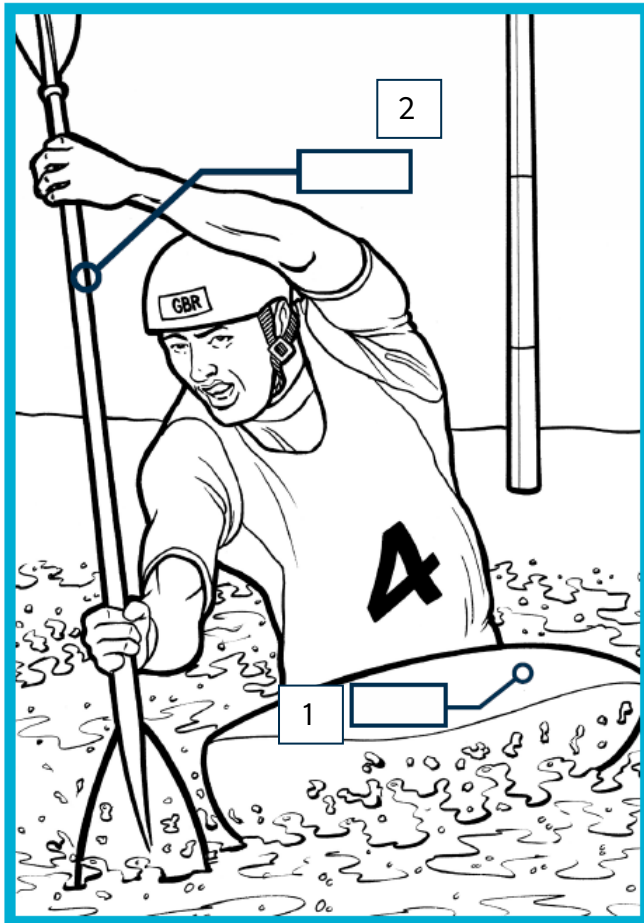
What do you know about canoeing and kayaking? Have you ever watched it? Have you ever participated? Do you like this sport? Why / why not? Do you know the differences between canoes and kayaks and about the different canoeing and kayaking events that take place at the Olympics?



1. Vocabulary

a. Write the correct words in the spaces provided.

a. gate	b. paddle	c. canoe	d. canoe and kayak course
e. white water	f. calm water	g. kayak	h. blade



2. The rules of canoeing and kayaking

- Two types of boats are used in this sport, canoes and kayaks.
- Canoes are usually open at the top but kayaks are closed. The paddle of a canoe has one blade. A kayaker's paddle has two.
- In canoeing you kneel on one knee but in kayaking you sit.
- The names of the different events depend on the number of canoers or kayakers. So "C-2" means a race with two athletes in each canoe and "K-1" is a kayak race with one athlete in each kayak.
- Sprint events take place on a straight course which is divided into lanes, on calm water.
- There are nine lanes and any boat leaving its lane is disqualified.
- Slalom events take place on a course of between 20 and 25 gates, which are suspended above the water.
- Athletes must go through different gates depending if they are going downstream, or upstream.
- If a boat touches a gate it is penalised 5 seconds, and if it misses a gate it is penalised 10 seconds.
- The fastest time, after adding on penalties, is the winner.

a. Match the words in the table with their definitions.

a. canoer	b. disqualified	c. downstream	d. gate	e. kayaker
f. lane	g. penalised	h. slalom events	i. sprint events	j. upstream

1. a person who paddles a canoe
2. a person who paddles a kayak
3. a special 'strip' of the river that is used to keep competitors separate
4. an opening between two upright poles through which the competitors must pass
5. be punished for breaking a rule
6. in the direction a river is flowing
7. in the direction opposite to the one a river is flowing
8. races where competitors paddle a canoe or kayak on a straight course divided in lanes, on calm water
9. races where competitors navigate a canoe or kayak through a course of hanging gates on white water
10. stopped from being in a competition because you have broken a rule

3. Questions & Answers

What do you know about canoeing and kayaking?

Not much, though I remember reading a poem about a Native American called Hiawatha who was very good at using a kayak.

You mean a canoe.

Do I? But canoes and kayaks are the same, aren't they?

No, canoes are usually open at the top but kayaks are closed. Also, the paddle of a canoe has one blade, whereas a kayaker's paddle has two. Also, in canoeing you kneel on one knee but in kayaking you sit.

So have you read that poem?

Yes, and Hiawatha definitely used a canoe. Besides, kayaks were first made and used by Inuit hunters in sub-Arctic regions.

And what about canoes?

Hard to say. They were used all over the world, on every continent. And the oldest canoe was found in the Netherlands and was built around 8000 BC.

That's a long time ago. When did it become an Olympic sport?

In Berlin in 1936.

Really? Why do they sometimes race on calm water? Aren't they excited?

No, no. 'Calm water' means the water isn't moving - like a lake. That's where they hold the sprint events.

And the events where they have to go through the gates?

You mean the slalom events. They are held on moving water called white water.

Hmm ... I don't suppose they have canoe races without paddles, do they?

No, of course not. What a funny question!

Yes, it's just that I think Hiawatha would have been very good at that type of race.

Why?

Because in the poem it says "Paddles none had Hiawatha, Paddles none he had or needed, For his thoughts as paddles served him".

I see! So he used his mind to guide his canoe!

That's right. Maybe they should have a race without paddles in the future.

Good luck with that.

Glossary

Inuit: one of a Native American tribe who live in the cold northern areas of North America and Greenland (also called Eskimo in some parts of the world)

kneel: to be in a position where one or both knees are on the ground

mind: the part of a person that makes it possible for him or her to think, feel emotions and understand things

a. Choose the correct answer to each of the following questions and statements.

1. What type of boat did Hiawatha use?
 - a. Canoe
 - b. Kayak

2. Where did canoes originate from?
 - a. North America
 - b. Europe
 - c. Don't know

3. How many differences between canoeing and kayaking are mentioned in the text?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3

4. Which **two** of the following are true?
 - a. Slalom events take place on calm water.
 - b. Both sprint and slalom events take place in white water.
 - c. Sprint events take place on calm water.
 - d. Slalom events take place in white water.

5. According to the poem, Hiawatha did not need paddles to guide his canoe.
 - a. True
 - b. False

4. Solution

Exercise 1a

1. *g*; 2. *b*; 3. *h*; 4. *a*; 5. *f*; 6. *e*; 7. *c*; 8. *d*

Exercise 2a

1. *a*; 2. *e*; 3. *f*; 4. *d*; 5. *g*; 6. *c*; 7. *j*; 8. *i*; 9. *h*; 10. *b*

Exercise 3a

1. *a*; 2. *c*; 3. *c*; 4. *c, d*; 5. *a*