



Birchbark Canoe in Color Photos: Indigenous Technology Volume I

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*****.As one studies a birchbark canoe, one realizes that it is basically a scaled-up, streamlined basket. The same kind of technology was used, to make them. This is not unusual. Irish coracles are essentially large baskets. Birchbark canoes were used by Native Americans of northern regions, wherever birch trees grew, and there were bodies of water. Written records cite sizes from one person, to even fifty. The fur trade that made some Europeans rich was dependent on birchbark canoes for transport. They were made in some quantity, during the fur trade, almost like an assembly line. John Jacob Astor made his fortune in the fir trade, and invested it in real estate, in New York City. Furs were marked up to about ten times what Native Americans were paid. A considerable amount of work was involved in making a birchbark canoe. One needed birch trees of large diameter, ideally. Bark was collected about August, at specific times, so as not to kill the trees. Once taken off the tree, the bark was put on a sledge,...



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