

# Traditional Technology

From the Birch Tree (Wiigwaas Aatik)

# Wiigwam

- Birch Dwellings were used by the Anishnabe (Ojibway people). They could be Conical, Dome shaped, wedge shaped. The bark provided them shelter from the wind and rain. In winter other layers were added with Moss in between as extra insulation. The bark Panels were sewn together with spruce root and lashed to the poles with rawhide lashings.





Images inside the wigwam. Spruce root used to sew panels of bark together and rawhide lashings are visible.



# Bark Baskets

- Various shapes of bark baskets were/are made for storage of a variety of different things especially food. The bark provided natural preservatives(oils) that helped keep food from spoiling. Different shapes were engineered for various specific purposes. Still today baskets are used for ceremonies and many other purposes including decorative pieces of art work and storage containers.







# Snowshoes

- Snowshoes were essential tools for winter survival, without them they could not travel in the deep snow to hunt, fish and trap in the winter months. The Ojibway had two distinct style of snowshoes the rounded toe and pointed toe. Each had specific purposes from cutting wood to long distance travel. The frames often made of Birch in more northern areas and Ash further south. The middle of the snowshoe that created the intricate weave was done with rawhide.







# Canoes and Paddle

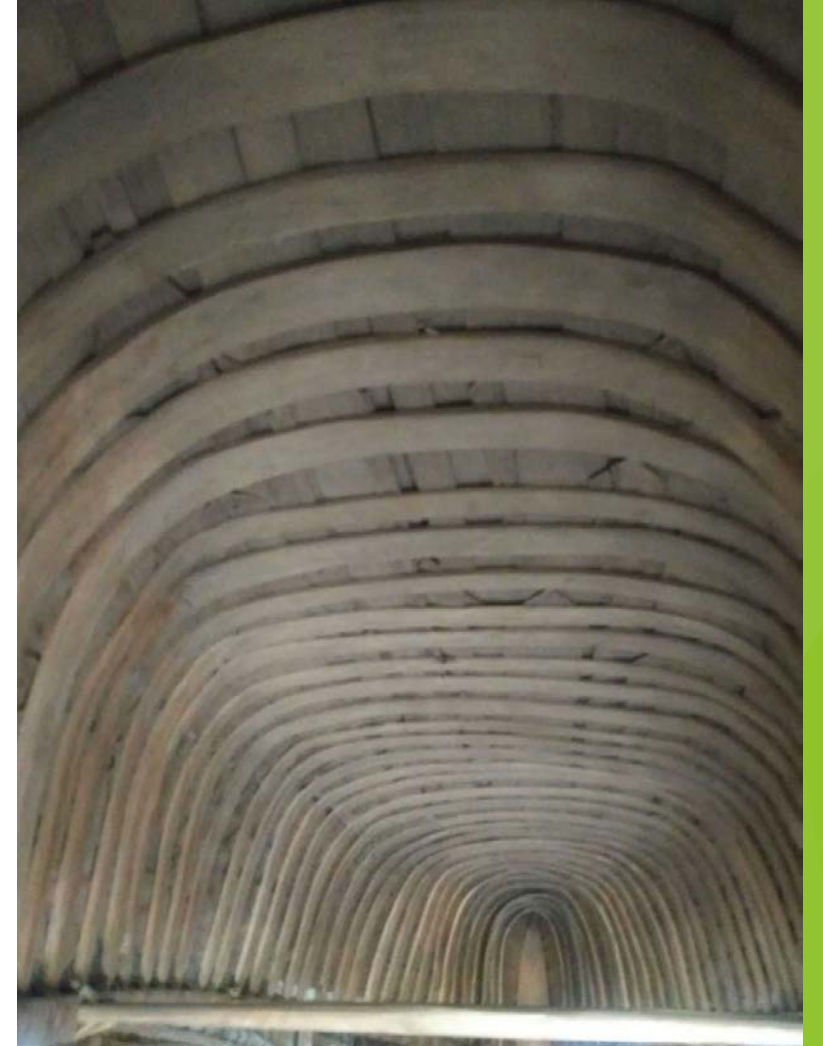
- ▶ Bark canoes were not only one of the signal greatest innovations in the development of Canada but they remain an essential part of Landscape. They allowed for inland travel and with a single paddle blade could be propelled through the water easily and picked up and carried with little effort.





Larger Canoes were adapted for the Fur trade era. 24-26ft North Canoes (used for travel West of Thunder Bay and 36 ft long Montreal Canoes used to travel east of Thunder Bay.











# Sleds and Toboggan

- Sleds and toboggans were used in carrying heavy loads during the winter months either by pulling on ones own or by dog power. In deeper snow conditions the toboggan was often used as it rides easily on top of the snow. In later winter and spring travel often other style sleds were used.





# Tikanangan

- Tikanagans (cradle boards) are used to carry babies. Sometimes smaller versions are created from bark and are placed inside moss bags to create a rigid back structure for the infant. Other more elaborate wooden boards are used and bars off the front would often protect the baby while being carried through the bush and or from falls to the head region.



