

THE KIRIBATI CANOE

Lesson Forty-Five

Objectives: This lesson introduces you to the Kiribati canoe, one of the most distinctive and useful of Kiribati artifacts. You will learn the names of some of the parts of a 'standard' canoe, and a little about their uses.

Activities: Study the accompanying drawing with the names of the parts below it. Ask and answer a series of questions like "what is part 1?" "part one is te ie", etc. Once you have some of them memorized, try the same thing by merely pointing to the part of the picture.

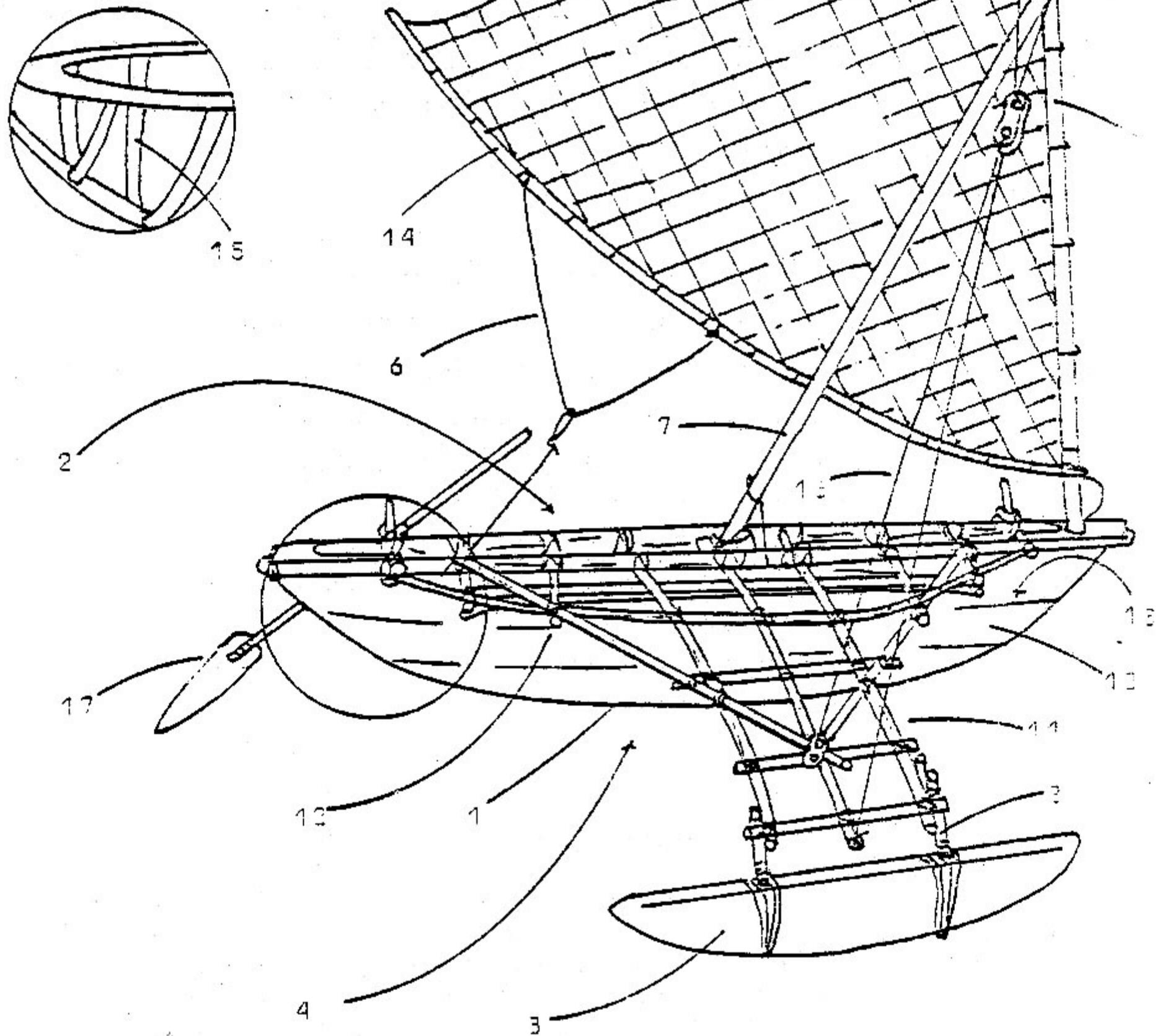
**Translation
of Key:**

Parts of the canoe:

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. keel | 11. outrigger boom |
| 2. lee side | 12. thwart |
| 3. outrigger float | 13. edge of plank |
| 4. outrigger side | 14. lower edge of sail |
| 5. sail | 15. rib |
| 6. sheet of sail | 16. stay from mast to
outrigger |
| 7. mast | 17. steering paddle |
| 8. float attachment | |
| 9. spar (gaff) of sail | |
| 10. plank | |

TE WAANI KIRIBATI

Reirei Abwi Ma Nimaua



Iteran nako te waa:

- | | | | |
|-----|------------|-----|---------------|
| 1. | te kabi | 11. | te kairo |
| 2. | katea | 12. | te kiaro-moti |
| 3. | te rama | 13. | te inao |
| 4. | raama | 14. | te inainano |
| 5. | te ie | 15. | te aiai |
| 6. | te baba | 16. | te ata |
| 7. | te aneang | 17. | te bweeuru |
| 8. | te tootoo | | |
| 9. | te inaieta | | |
| 10. | te rai | | |

Additional
Activities:

Study the narrative, which explains something about the canoe and its parts. When you think you have mastered it, expand the activity you did in the first part of the lesson by asking what a particular thing is used for.

Translation
of Narrative:

The Kiribati Canoe

The float is used for balancing the canoe.

It is connected to the body of the canoe by the outrigger.

The canoe moves by means of the sail.

Before the Europeans came with cloth, the sail was woven of pandanus leaf, like a mat.

There is a mast to stand the sail in position.

The paddle is used to move the canoe when there is no wind.

And there's a bailer to bail out the canoe when the sea water comes in.

Henry's canoe is only big enough for one person.

It has no sail because it's a paddle canoe.

There are some canoes which are very big.

Outside
Activities:

Who builds the canoes? Does everyone build his own, or are there special canoe-builders? How long does it take to build one? What are the differences between the different kinds? Is the racing canoe the same as a fishing canoe?

Narrative
for Study:

Te Waani Kiribati

E bongana te rama b'a e kabeta te waa.

E kabaeaki te rama ma rab'atan te waa n taiari kiaro.

E buti te waa n te ie.

Im'aain rokoia I Matang ma te kunnikai ao e rarangaaki
ien te waa n te baa ni kaina n aron te kie.

Iai aneangin te waa ae e katea te ie.

E kaboonganaaki te bweennarina ni kabuta te waa ngkana akea
te ang.

Iai te anima ae e kaboonganaaki ibukin kaikan te waa ngkana
e kakanoa n taari.

E rangi n tau ab'akin waan Eneri ibukin ti temanna.

Akea iena b'a te waa n oo.

Iai waa tabeua aika a rangi n ab'aab'aki.

Note:

Two excellent sources are available for further reading on Kiribati canoes: The earliest is by Arthur Grimble, published in 1924 in an anthropological journal; it is reprinted in Rosemary Grimble's "Migrations, Myth and Magic from the Gilbert Islands". The second, which draws heavily on it, is "Canoes of Oceania," by A.C. Haddon & J. Hornell (Bishop Museum Press 1975.)

Another work of interest, recently available in the Gilberts, is "Taratai" by James Siers, which tells of building and sailing in a Kiribati type canoe; it has appendices of related interest.