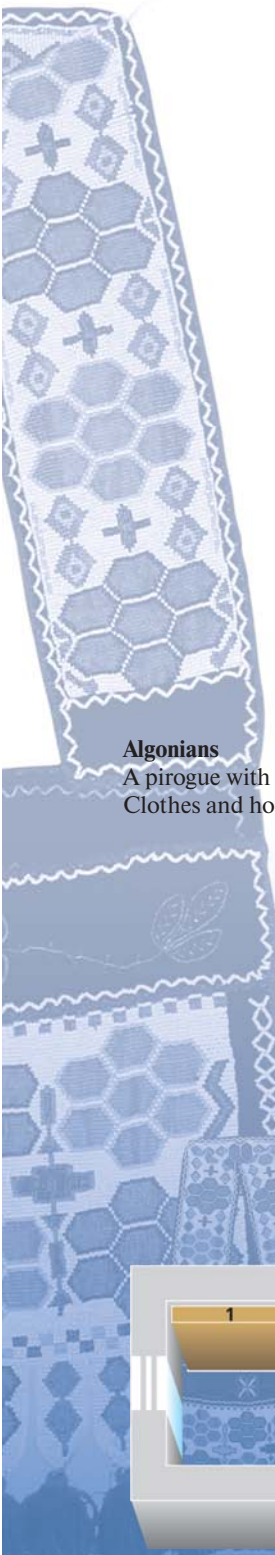




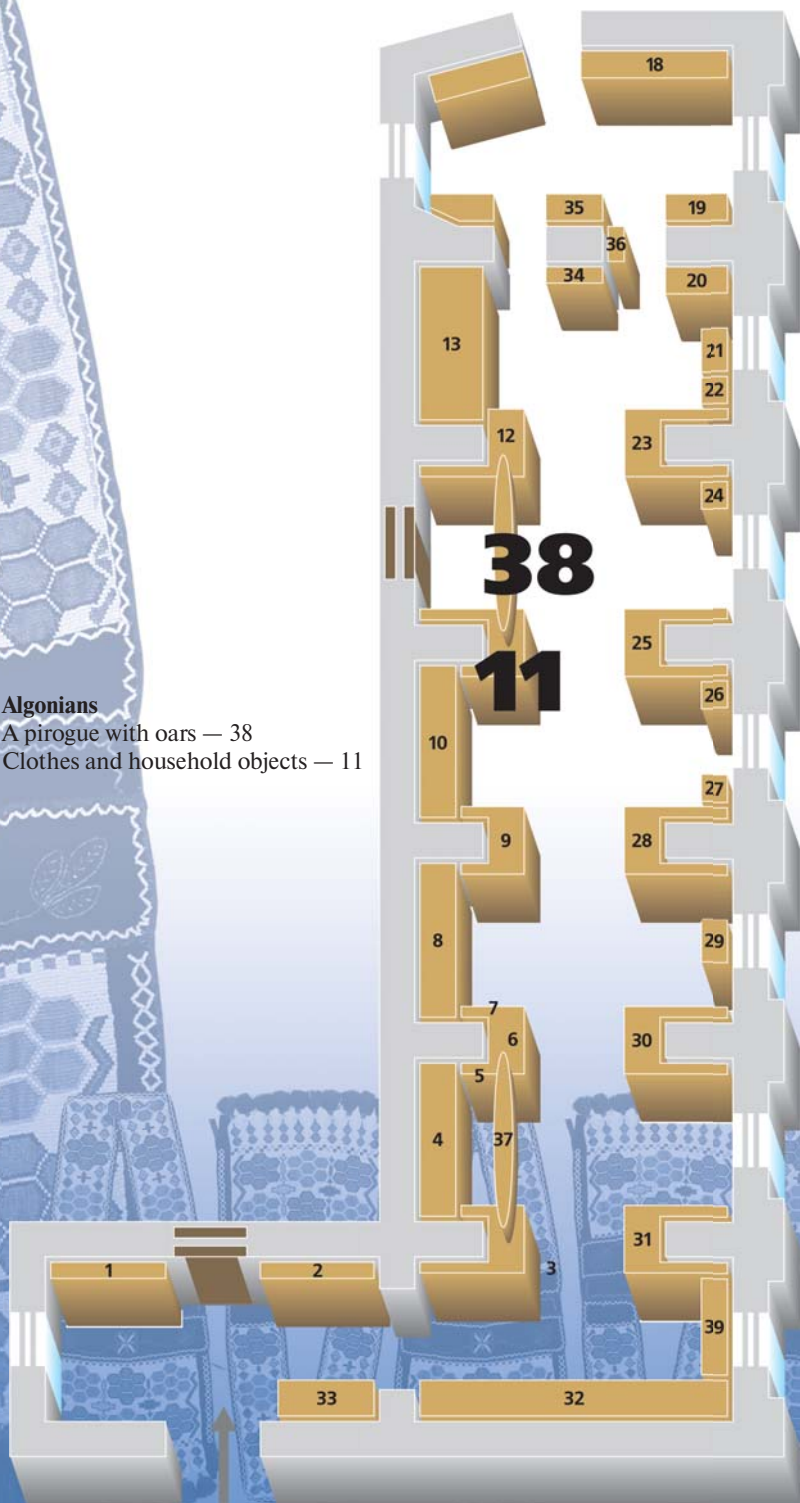
COLLECTORS AND HUNTERS OF THE GREAT LAKES



Algonians

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ALGONQUIAN PEOPLE

The forest areas north of the Great Lakes from the coast of the Atlantic to the foothills of the Rocky Mountains were inhabited by the Algonquian People.

The Algonquian language family (one of the largest in America) unites the Ojibwa, Menomini, Fox, Kikapoo, Micmac and other tribes.

► *Ojibwa chief. Photograph, 19th century*



◀ *Racket skis*

The Algonquian people were mostly occupied with collecting and hunting large forest animals: deer, moose, bears. In the winter, to be able move on the surface of the deep snow, they used racket-skis. The Indigenous people of America did not know sliding skis.



▲ *Collecting wild rice. Drawing, 20th century*

Of high importance was collecting wild rice. It was gathered from a boat which usually accommodated two women. Rice stems were bended over the side of the boat and grains shaken down with stick blows.

Then rice was dried on special daises under which fire was made. Dried rice was then threshed by men. Rice was used to make soups with meat, fish, berries and maple sugar. The possibility to gather rice every year in the same place let the Algonquian people lead settled way of life. Such type of collecting was no less efficient than the early farming.



To make kitchen utensils the Algonquians used wood and bark.

◀ *Birch-bark bag*

The clothes of the Great Lakes Indians (a shirt from deer suede with a fringe and patterns made of beads) became a symbol of the Indians' clothes for the Europeans. The Algonquians themselves used mostly European materials as early as in the 19th century, though they continued to decorate their clothes with the traditional patterns.

► *Fabric shirt*



▲ *Ceremonial bag*

Frames of bark boats were made of fir-tree roots. Birch bark was used for bordering. It took bark from not less than eight trees to make one boat.

Men collected and prepared the material and built boats, while women sowed bark pieces together and greased the seams with pitch. Boats were 2.5-5 m long, and 70-80 cm wide. Due to their flat bottoms, such boats easily got over shallow waters. An Indian stood in the boat on his knees and rowed, hitting the water with an oar on both sides several times in turns. Large boats (5 meters long) were used to transport prey or different goods during migrations. They were also used to collect rice.



▲ *Birch-bark boat*

