

Steering



**Captain John Smith
Chesapeake National
Historic Trail**



Steering

How do you steer a ship or canoe? Canoes were steered using paddles that you held in your hand. Pushing or pulling the paddle in different shapes moved the canoe in the desired direction. John Smith's shallop, like other European boats, was steered with a tiller and rudder. The rudder was essentially a large paddle attached to the back of the ship. The tiller was a handle that was attached to the rudder that could be moved to the right or left. Sails also helped larger ships steer in different directions.