

Basic Detail Report



Object/Work: 115 x 50 mm

Comb

Date

1800-1850

Medium

Narwhale ivory

Description

Comb with an angular handle engraved with decorative designs. Combs with intricate designs were used for both utilitarian and aesthetic purposes by native Alaskans and Canadians. Usually made from bone, wood, or animal tusk, women used combs for hair dressing and sanitation, like their European counterparts. They became popular objects of trade when European explorers arrived in these areas. One such explorer, John Franklin, wrote: "It is creditable to the Esquimaux habits of cleanliness, that combs were in great demand and we saw wooden ones of their own manufacture not dissimilar to ours in form."

Dimensions