

Basic Detail Report



Harpoon-Head

Date

1800-1900

Medium

Bone

Description

Small head of a harpoon. For hunting small animals, fish or birds. Inuit and Eskimo harpoon-heads were either toggle-heads or barbed heads. The main difference between these two styles lies in the way each cements the animal in place - the toggle-head twists 90 degrees through a complex system of external lines and pulleys, while the barbed heads simply had teeth along the edges that secured the harpoon in place. This harpoon-head is evidently of the second category, with a longer shape and teeth running along the side such that the piece could easily puncture flesh and not so easily come loose. Inuit or possibly Aleut.