

SPool

Made of: **Wood**

Used for: **Sewing**

Sinew from whale was used for thread. Needles were made from birds' legs. Raincoats were made of seal-gut, after it was dried. Sinew from whales was used as thread, then the gut was cut into shapes and sewn together.

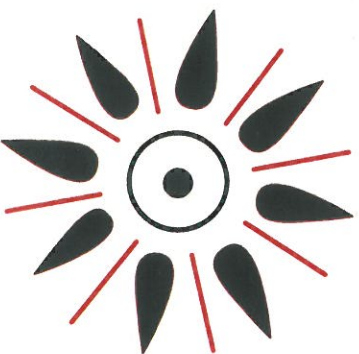
- Emily Kvasnikoff, 1981, "Aleksandrovsk, English Bay in its Traditional Way," 1981

Women used this seal-shaped spool to wind up and store sewing materials for "fancy work." Sinew thread, dried gut, embroidered bands of seal esophagus, colored yarn, or other sewing materials might have been wrapped on the spool for storage.

Photo: e168632, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute







Gigud - BOWL

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**

Made of: Wood

Used for: Container

This bird-shaped dish, probably representing a merganser duck, is saturated with fish or sea mammal oil from use as a serving bowl. The naturalistic carving is Sugpiaq in style, while ovoid "joint marks" on the wings reflect Tlingit influence. Sugpiaq artists used white trade beads, animal teeth, bone, or crystals to decorate their carvings.

photo: e168623, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

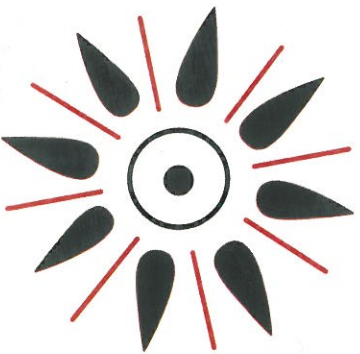


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Funded by the United States Department Education, Grant Number
S356A090054



50+





TOGGLING HARPOON HEAD
(MOVING SPEAR)

pitalraq paanak

HARPOON HEAD

Language: ~~Koniag~~ Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)

Made of: Wood and Bone

Used for: Catching Sea Mammals

When the kayak was still in use we had rifles and harpoons. A fat seal would always float, but we had to use the harpoon for seals which had only been wounded by the bullets. The harpoon was attached to a line which in turn was connected to an air bladder... -Innokenti Inga, 1962, from the Alutiig Museum oral history archives

This heavy harpoon head for killing sea lions is made of bone with a slate blade and a wooden foreshaft; the whole assembly fit on the end of a harpoon. The keeper-ring of twisted bark slipped over the back end of the harpoon head to hold it straight until the harpooner made his strike.

Photo: e168632, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

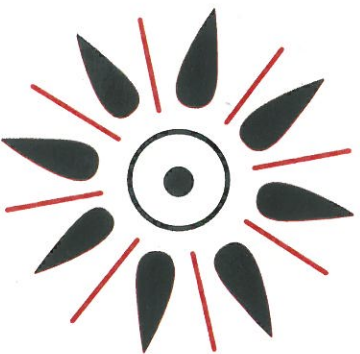
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Suuquuat - FIGURES

Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Wood**

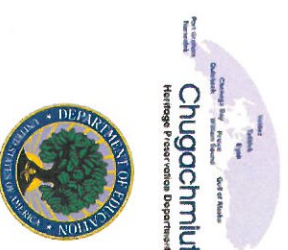
Used for: **Playing for Kids**

These small ivory figures representing real and mythical animals were toys, or perhaps hunting charms. These include a bear with a seal's hind flippers; a bear's head with open mouth and copper-inlaid eyes and nostrils; a sea otter floating on its back; a seal; a beluga whale; and an insect-like creature with eight legs and a hooked bird beak.

Photo: e127799_grp3, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

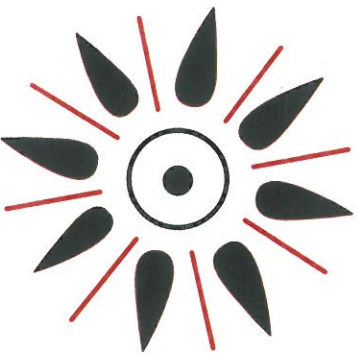
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Nukaq - THROWING BOARD



Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Wood**

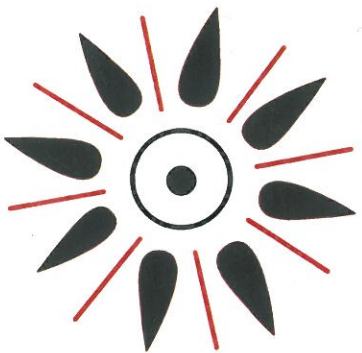
Used for: **Hunting**

A throwing board extended a hunter's arm, adding extra leverage as he hurled hunting darts through the air toward seals, birds, and sea otters. The grip was custom-carved to fit his palm and fingers. Before it was thrown the dart rested in the groove on the front side of the board; when it was launched the back end of the dart pivoted on the ivory pin. A design carved on the back of the throwing board shows the hind feet and tail of a sea otter.

Photo: e002533, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute







Guu'uk -STONE AXE OR ADZE

**MADE OF: JADE OR GREENSTONE
USED FOR: CHOPPING WOOD**

People used to fear that their stone adze blades

- which took great time and effort to shape out of jade or greenstone
- would break as they chopped wood in the forest. They fasted and used spiritual precautions to guard against such accidents.



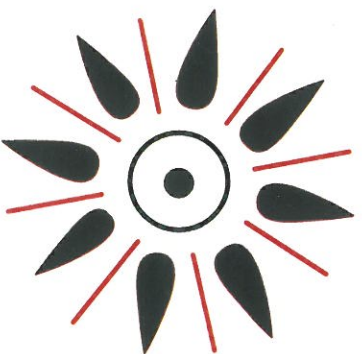
Starting in the late 18th century, Russian, British, and Spanish sea otter ships traded iron “toes” or bars to the Tlingit, who used them to make unbreakable adzes. This tool has an iron blade that clan leader George Bennett thought could have come from a trader’s ship. Wooden wedges were driven under the lashings to tighten them. (Alaska Native Collections, Smithsonian Institute, 2013.)

Image left: The two stone heads were found near Port Graham, Alaska

Photo Front: - Courtesy of Robert Shaw and is shown with an alder and rawhide shaft







Pitegcâq - BOW

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**
Made of: **Wood**
Used for: **Hunting**

Wooden bows backed with sinew cord were powerful and accurate weapons. Hunters carried them on their kayaks for sea otter hunting and on land for taking bears, caribou, mountain goats, and other game. Images of many different animals are painted on this bow: caribou, beaver, whale, and some not easy to identify. The entire bow is reddened, perhaps with berry juice.

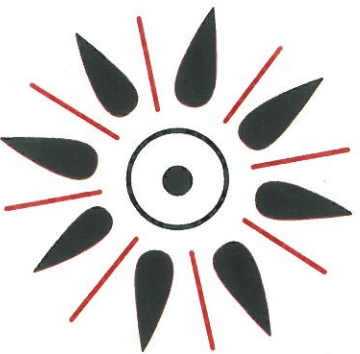
photo: e002528, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Gigniq - ARROW

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**

Made of: **Wood and Bone**

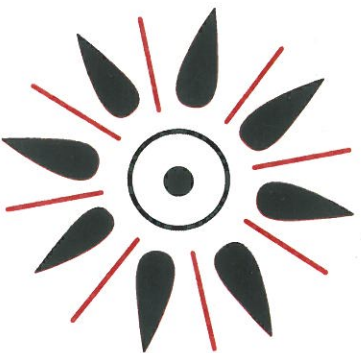
Used for: **Hunting**

Sea otter hunters traveled and worked as a team. using arrows that were designed like miniature harpoons. The barbed point, made of bone or copper, came off the arrow shaft after striking its target but remained attached by a braided sinew bridle, forcing the otter to drag the shaft behind. Sea otter hunters traveled worked as a team. When one man spotted an otter, he raised his paddle to signal the other boats, which formed a circle around the swimming animal to shoot each time it came up. Experienced otters were said to bat the arrows aside with their paws.

Photo: e382243, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute







Luuskaaq - SPOON

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**
Made of: **Animal Horn**
Used for: **Meals and Ceremonies**

They use wooden spoons, which are decorated; or they are fashioned from the horns of wild sheep, which they acquire from Chugatsk Bay [Prince William Sound] or Kenai Bay [Cook Inlet].

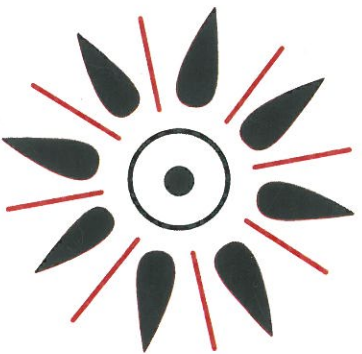
-Gavriil Davydov, from "Two Voyages to Russian America, 1802-1807"

This spoon was cut and molded from the heat-softened horn of a wild mountain goat. The carved handle depicts two animals with large ears, the lower one with white beads for eyes. The spoon came from Kodiak Island where mountain goats are absent, but horns of the animals were acquired in trade from villages in Prince William Sound and along the Kenai Peninsula.

Photo: e090429, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute







Punehpak - BRAIDED SINEW LINE

Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Animal Fibers**

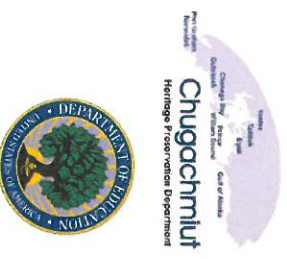
Used for: **Hunting**

Alutiq women twisted sinew fibers from whales, porpoises, and bears into strong lines for hunting equipment and kayaks. Learning to make braided cords was one of a young girl's first lessons. This cord is decorated with colored thread and strands of caribou hair.

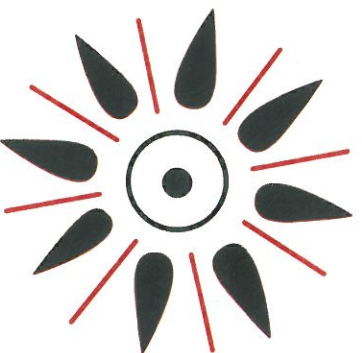
Photo: P145, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Keligsún - GUT SCRAPER

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**

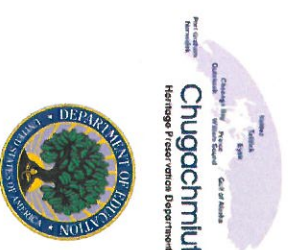
Made of: **Wood**

Used for: **Cleaning Skins**

Wooden scrapers were used to prepare animal skins for making clothing. Women used scrapers to clean away flesh, fat, and hair, and after drying the hides, to soften them by breaking down their fibers. Skins were further worked by hand to make them soft.

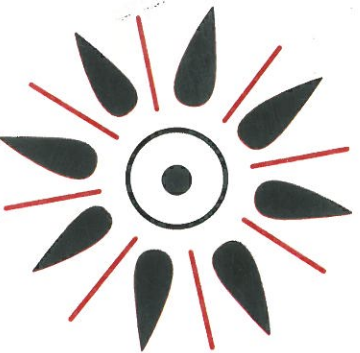
Photo: Karluk One Collection, Koniag, Inc., Courtesy the Alutiiq Museum and Archaeological Repository

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SINKER

Made of: **Stone**
Used for: **Fishing**

A grooved stone sinker weighted down a wooden halibut hook so that it floated just above the ocean bottom. When fishing from a beach, the fisherman used a rising tide to float the hook; he tied on the stone weight with a slip knot so that it would come off when a halibut was on the line. At low tide he went back to retrieve the weight.

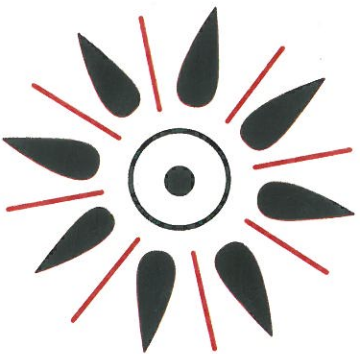
Photo: A395441, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Kakiwik - SEWING BAG

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**

Made of: **Seal Skin**

Used for: **Sewing**

Women carried roll-up pouches to hold their sewing supplies, and a nicely made kakiwik demonstrated the owner's artistry. This sewing bag has a black-painted flap, sealskin trim, dyed-esophagus strip appliqué, caribou hair embroidery, and rows of tiny yarn loops. A sinew cord wraps around the bag when rolled. The pouch would have held needles—traditionally made of split bird bone, ivory, or copper—as well as scraps of fur and thread made from whale or caribou sinew.

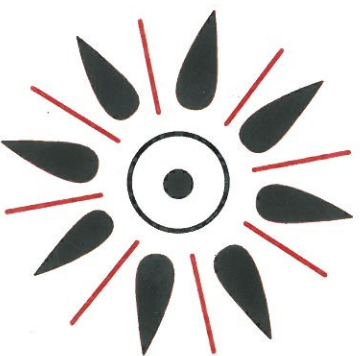
Photo: e072497, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Bobbin
MADE OF: WOOD
USED FOR: SEWING

And then they'd twist it [porpoise sinew]. They'd take maybe that long [about two feet] to start with, but they could make the thread much longer. They'd take it and they'd twist it together... Then they rolled it up real tight.

-Bobby Stamp, 1988, from the Alutiiq Museum oral history archive

To make thread for sewing, women cleaned and dried the back sinews of porpoises, whales, or caribou, then split them into individual fibers with a fingernail or comb. They moistened the strands and rolled them together between the hands, twisting in new pieces until they had thread of the right thickness and length. This wooden bobbin was used to wind up and store the sinew thread, as well as other materials such as embroidery yarn.

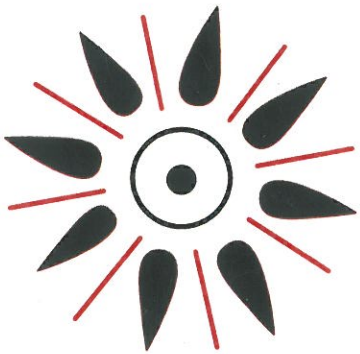
photo: e168633, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Iqsak - FISHING HOOK

Language: **Chugach Sugt'stun**

Made of: **Wood**

Used for: **Catching Halibut**

Traditional wooden hooks like this were tied to long lines made of seaweed. Stone weights held them near the ocean floor where halibut swim and feed. The line was connected on the surface to a float made from the stomach of a seal or the bladder of a sea lion. When the float went under it was a signal that a fish was on the other end of the line.

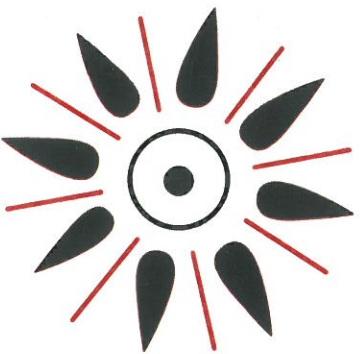
Photo: e398275, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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Laam'paag - LAMP

Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Stone**

Used for: **Light**

For illumination they use stone dishes filled with seal, bear, sea lion, whale, or fur seal oil into which they insert grass wicks.

- Grigorii Shelikhov, from "A Voyage to America, 1783-1786"

Stone lamps were shaped from stone and filled with oil to light the interiors of traditional houses; the wicks were made of moss, sometimes mixed with cedar bark. A bear's head rises from the basin of this lamp, to be dramatically lit by the flame. The lamp is more than one thousand years old and was found in an archaeological site on Kodiak Island.

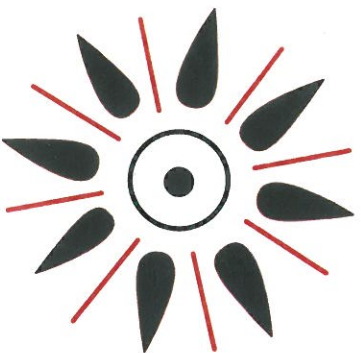
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Qallúhunn - WATER DIPPER

Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Wood**

Used for: **Scooping Water**

Also called as Ikusag or Ladle and was used for water drinking.

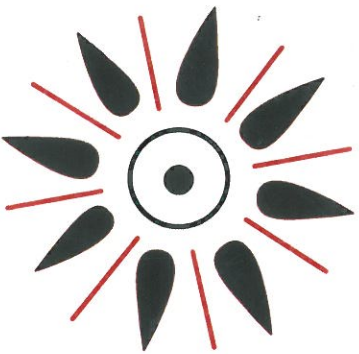
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Ulluaq - ULU

Language: **Sugt'stun**

Made of: **Wood and Iron**

Used for: **Cutting**

The curved knife with wooden handle is one of a woman's basic tools. Women used them "very skillfully as a knife or scissors" according to 19th century Russian priest Ivan Veniaminov, and they were employed to cut meat and skins. Carl Merck noted in 1790 that, "There is a broad knife made of iron. They use it to eat with. They bite into whale blubber, for instance, and with the knife they cut off a good size piece in front of the mouth." He also saw women using their knives to split seagull bones into slivers for making sewing needles.

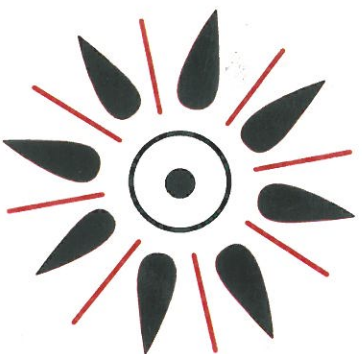
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Nukaq - THROWING BOARD

Language: **Koniag Sugt'stun (Alaska Peninsula dialect)**

Made of: **Wood**

Used for: **Hunting**

A throwing board was used for launching sea otter, seal, and bird darts (spears). The dart rested in a groove on the board's upper side, hooked on its end by an ivory peg and held in place by the hunter's forefinger. During the throw the dart lifted and shot forward, with the board catapulting it from behind. One side of the board is painted red, to attract sea otters; the other is black, representing the animal's fur. When a hunter struck an otter he held the board high to signal his success to others in the hunt.

Photo: 020373.000, Department of Anthropology, Smithsonian Institute

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