

Antler

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Antler

The Chugach people traded with people from the Alaska Peninsula for caribou antler and hides. The antler of caribou was used to dig spruce roots, to make arrowheads for hunting sea otter and seal, and to make buttons for garments.



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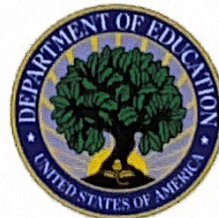


Boots

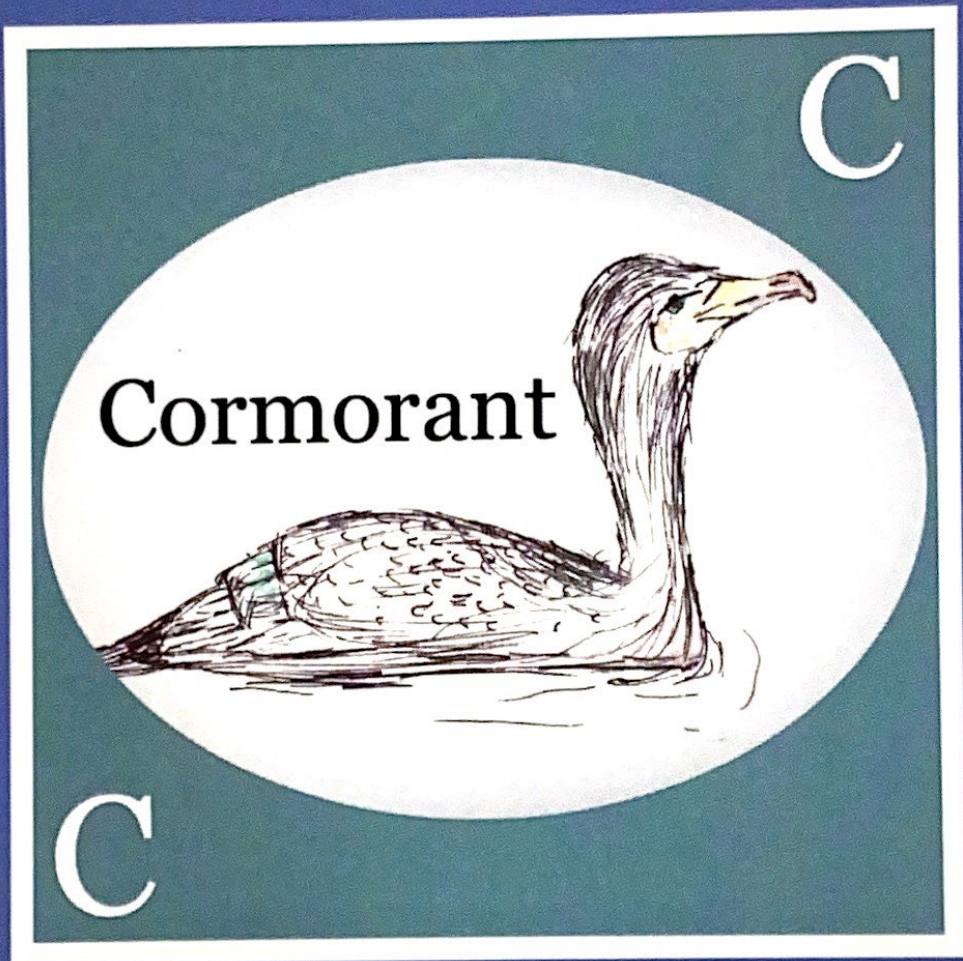
The Chugach people wore high topped boots made of sea lion skin; for the sole and upper boot, they used the seal belly skin, whereas the top of the boot was made of throat skin. Every part of the animal was used and each animal was shown much respect.



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Cormorant

Cormorant

Both Chugach men and women wore parkas made from bird skins. The parkas were very warm. The cormorants were plentiful back in the day. A cormorant parka for a special occasion had as many as 150 throat skins! A common bird skin parka might require as many as sixty bird skins!



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Dress

The Chugach women were excellent seamstresses. Many small pieces were used to make garments and nothing was wasted. On traditional parkas, there were many tiny bits of sea otter fur. On some parkas, the feet of the squirrels are left on. Wow!



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Eagle

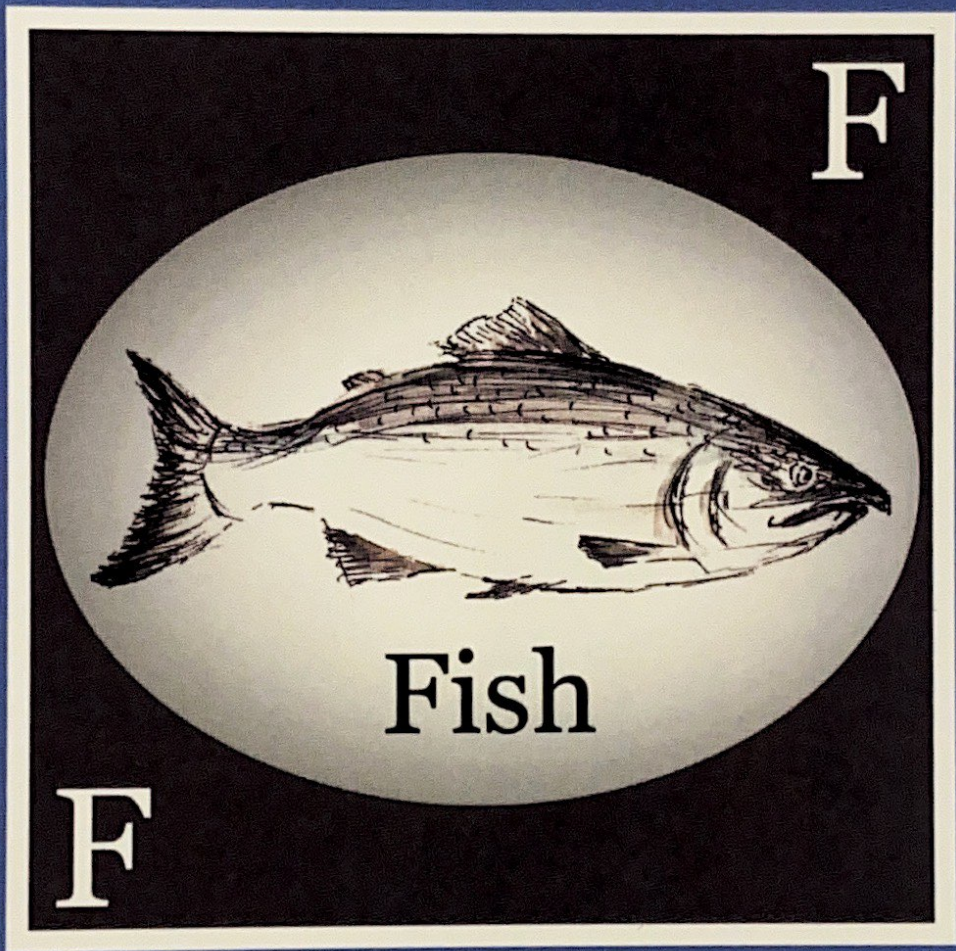
Chugach people used eagle skins with the feathers attached for raincoats. Other parkas were made with eagle down for warmth. Ten eagle skins were needed to make a coat.



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Fish

The Chugach people used dog salmon to make boots with sealskin for soles.



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G_{rass}

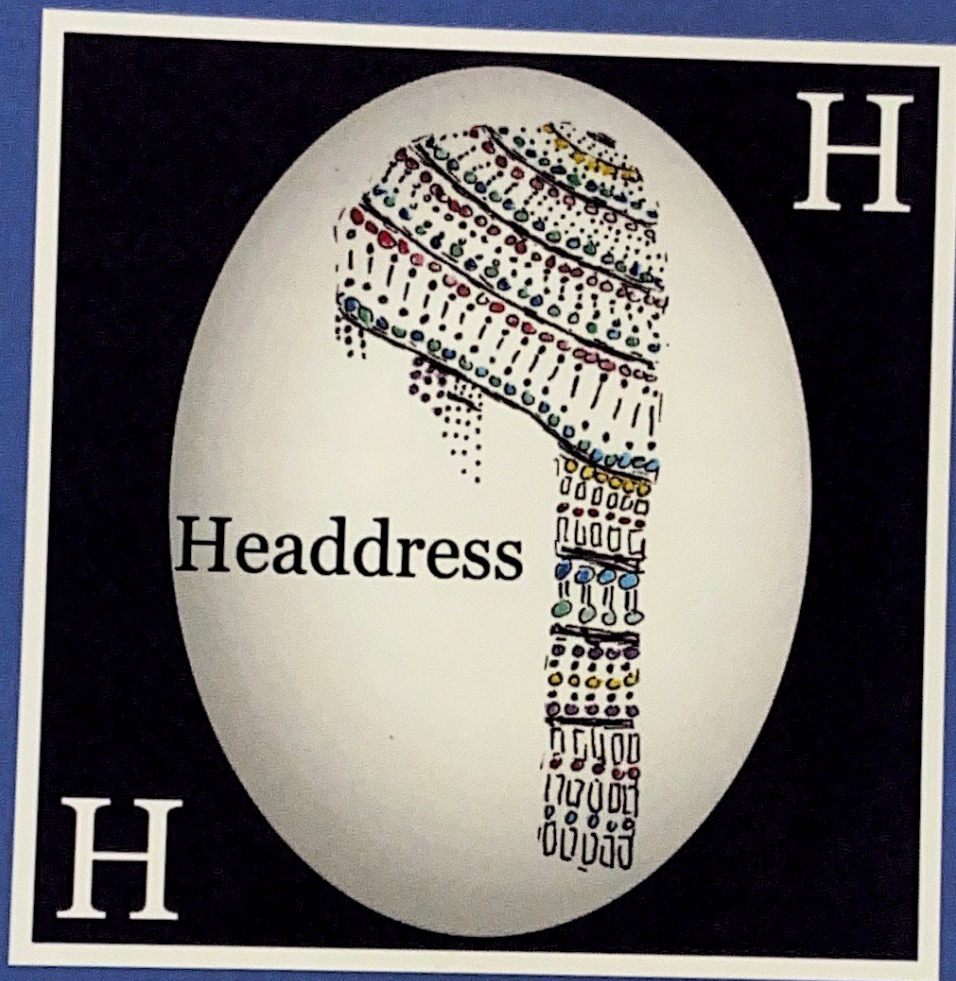
The Chugach people wove with grass to make socks. Grass was used in the bottom of boots for insulation to keep feet warm. A piece of grass was also woven into the waterproof stitch used in gut parkas.



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Headdress

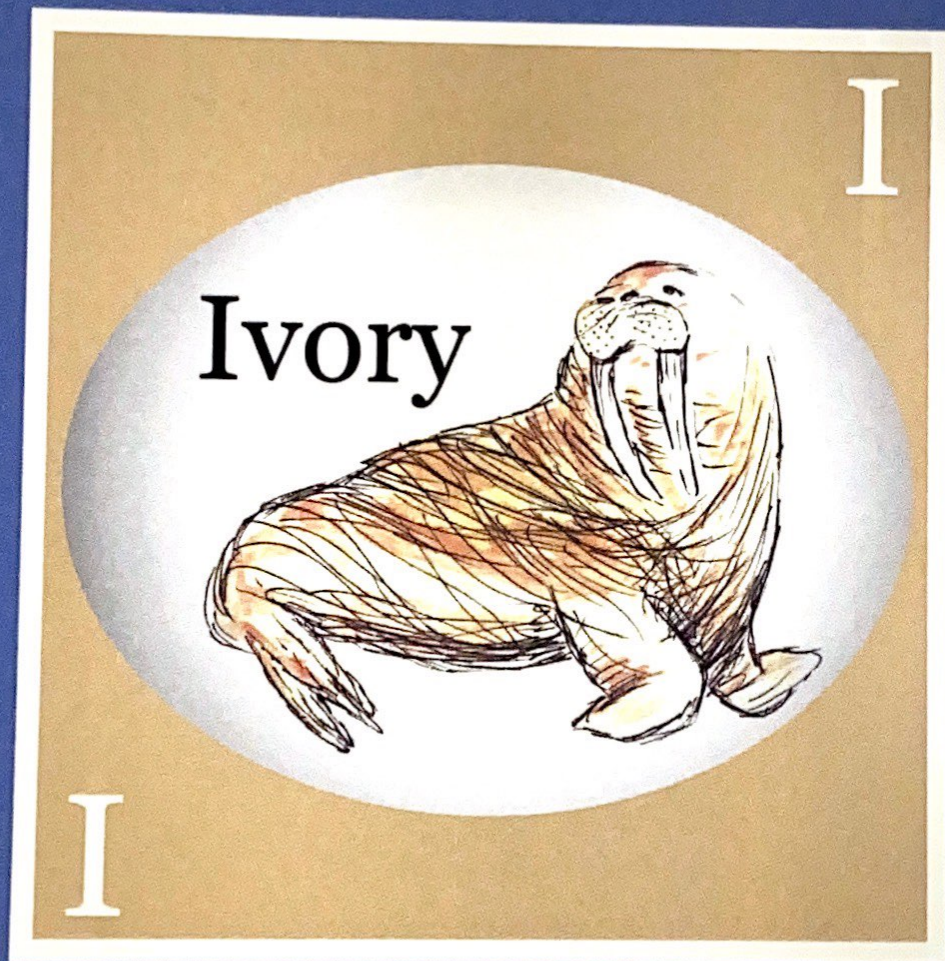
On ceremonial occasions, a chief's daughter would wear a sort of veil, made of beads and dentalium shells. The veil hung down the back, sometimes reaching the heel. Alaska Native dancers wear these beaded headdresses when performing at special events.



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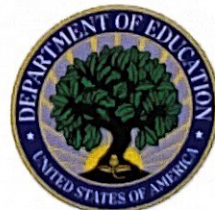


Ivory

**Walrus ivory was used as the foreshaft
and the detaching point on an arrow for
hunting sea otter.**



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Jewelry

The ornaments of Chugach people were elaborate. Nose pins and labrets were worn. Headbands made out of beads were also worn. At feasts, feathers were put in the headbands. Ear ornaments were common to both men and women with holes all around the rim of the ear. Necklaces and armbands were also worn.



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Kayak



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Kayak

Chugach people lived by the sea and on boats. Kayaks were made from sinew, wood, and skins. One of the uses of kayaks was to hunt for sea otter and seal for clothing and food. A family would ride inside the kayak and look through the translucent cover of the boat, freshly waterproofed with seal oil.



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Labret

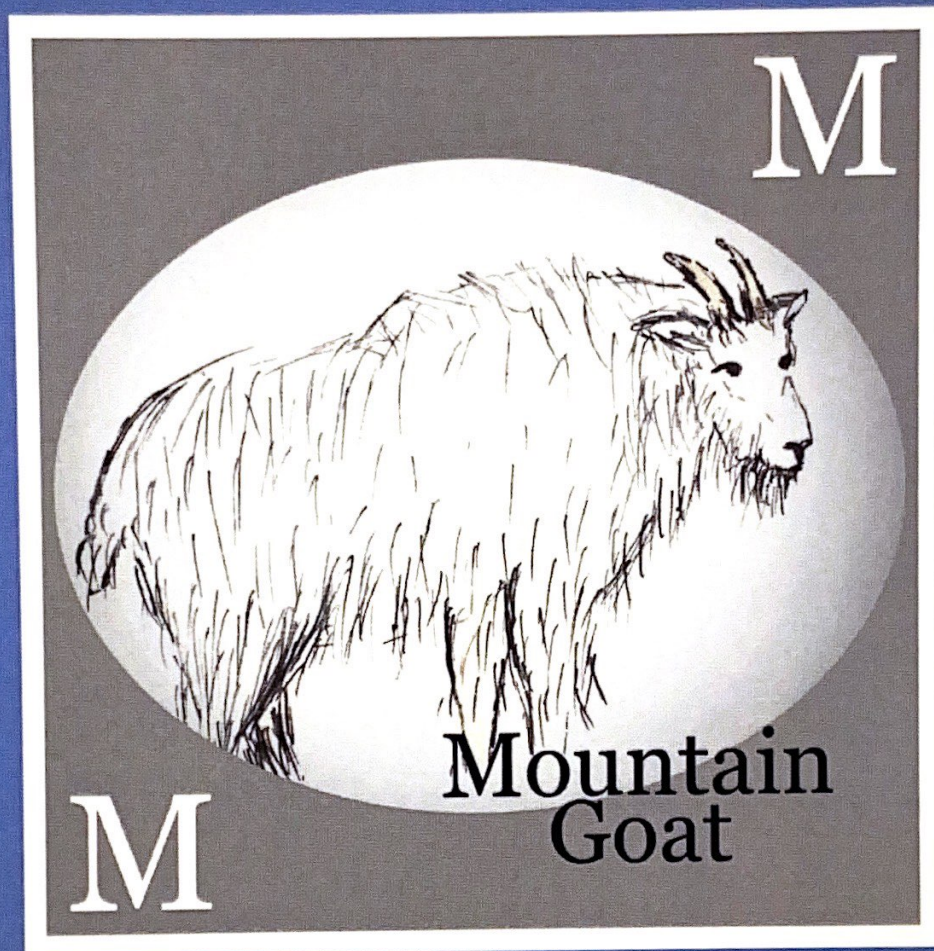
Both Chugach men and women had a labret, flat, narrow ornament made chiefly out of solid shell, bone, ivory, or green jasper which was worn in the middle of the lower lip. Labrets look like teeth. Sometimes beads were hung from the labret, hanging as low as the chin.



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Mountain Goat

After the arrival of Russians in the Chugach region, the Chugach people learned to weave blankets from mountain goat wool. Down of the mountain goat was gathered off of bushes and spun down into yarn for weaving.



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Needle
Kit

Needle Kit

Chugach men used sewing kits for emergency kayak repairs. Women used sewing kits to store small sewing items such as needles and twists of sinew used to sew clothing from furs, leather, and birds, fish skin, and seal or bear intestine.



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Otter

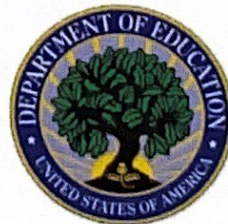


Otter

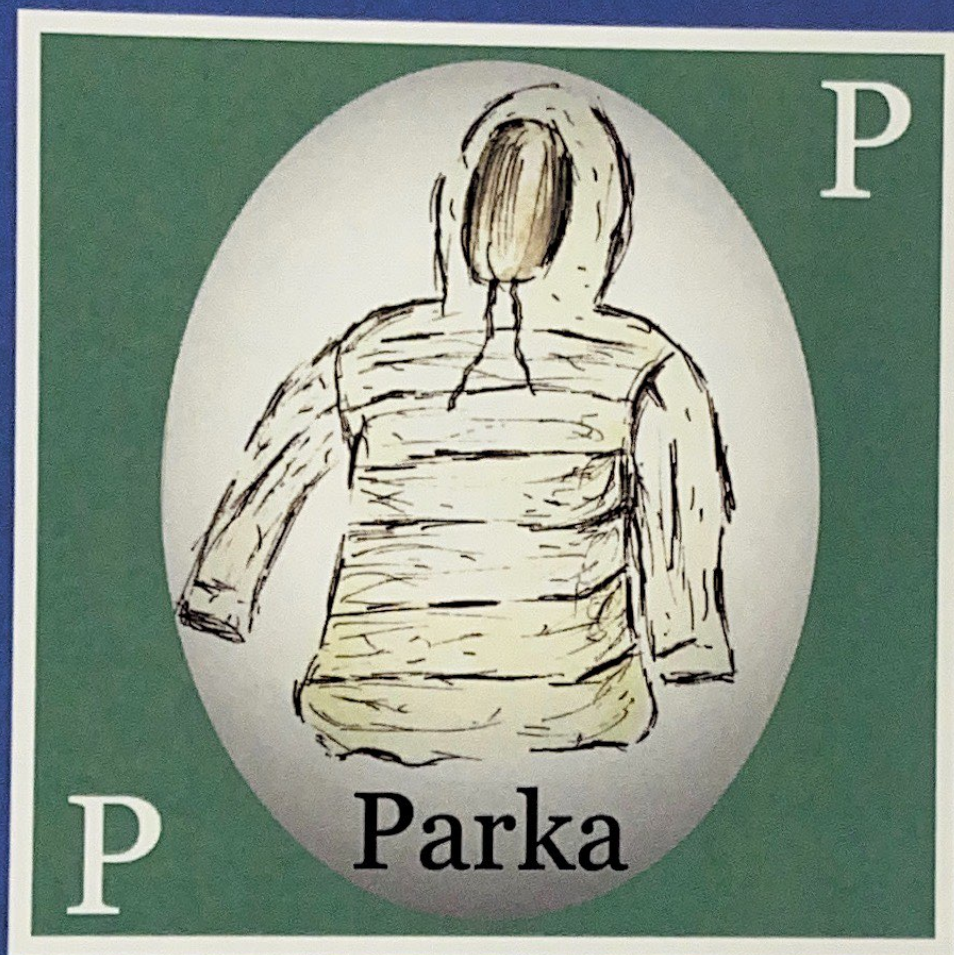
Sea otters were of great historical importance to the Chugach people. Chiefs wore coats of sea otter or ground squirrel skin. A single sea otter was split in half and sewn together at the side for a parka. Sea otter fur made for a very warm parka. There are one million hairs in an inch patch of sea otter fur. Wow!



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Parka

A traditional parka, also called an outer coat, was a long hoodless robe. They were made of marten, mink, ground squirrel, land otter, or bird skins. Ermine skins were used for decoration. Chiefs had coats of sea otter or ground squirrel skin.



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Quills

**Garments were decorated with
dentalium shells and porcupine quills.**



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Root Hat

Basketry hats with flat tops were used in rainy weather. They were made of spruce roots and decorated with painted designs, dentalium shells, and sea lion whiskers. The weave was so tight that it made the hat waterproof.



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Seal

Harbor seal furs were made into parkas, trousers, mittens, hats, and boots. The furs were warm, water resistant and plentiful. Every part of the seal was used. The seal intestines were cleaned, blown up, dried, and then cut into strips. These strips were sewn with a waterproof stitch and made into raingear! Brilliant!



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Tattoos

Tattooing was performed with a needle, sinew thread, and soot. The design of the women “comes to a point in each cheek”. Married women had three lines tattooed on her chin.



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U tensil

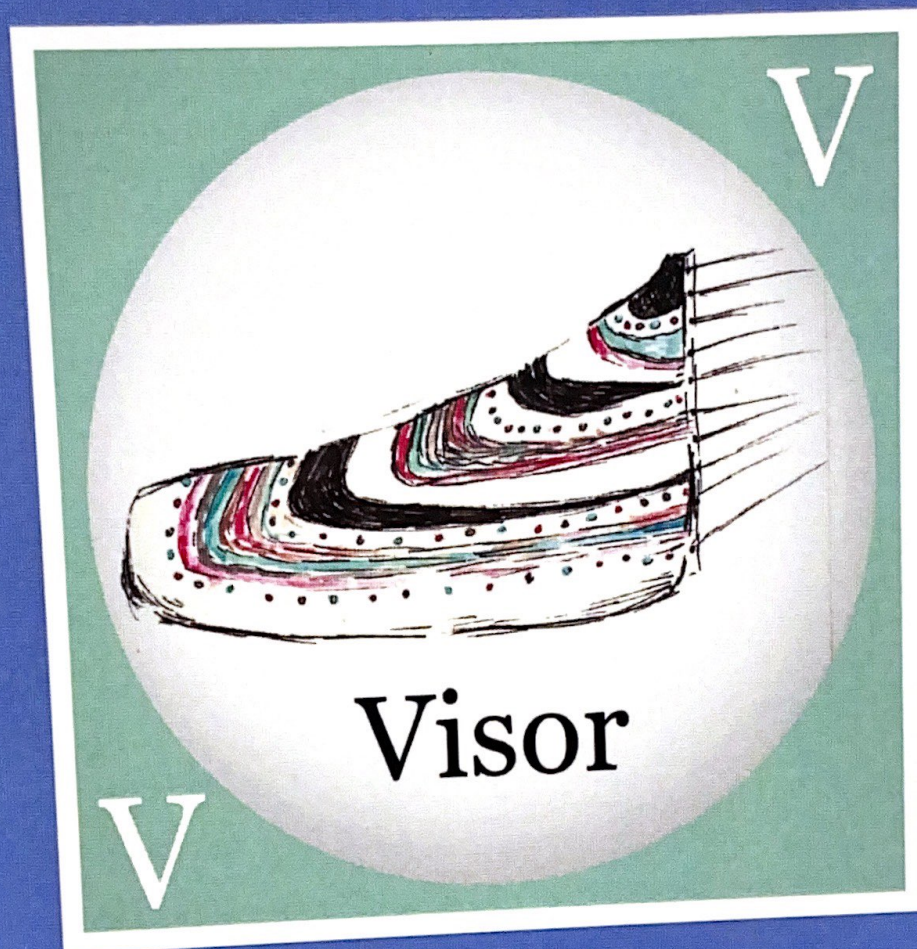
This picture is of skin scraper. Nowadays any dull knife or even an ordinary spoon may serve as a skin scraper, but formerly a spoon-shaped implement of wood or mussel shell was used for scraping hides.



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Visor

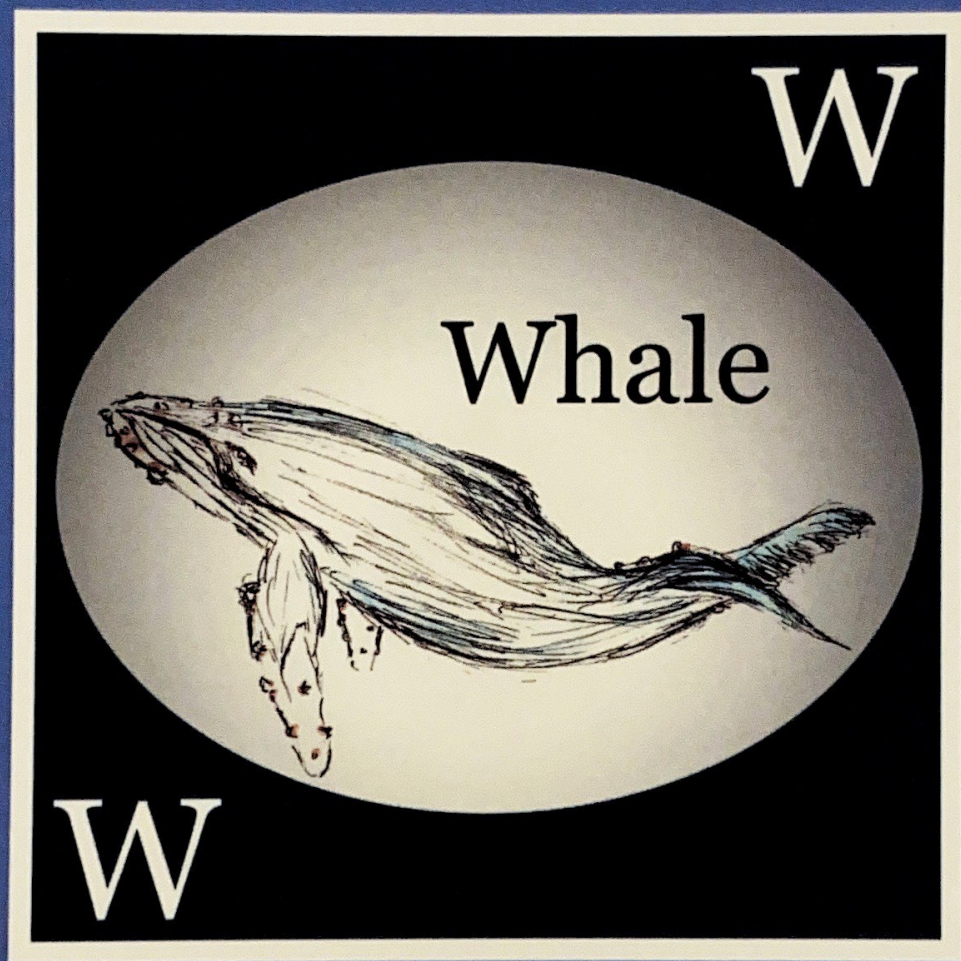
Visors or wooden hats were a very important piece of gear for hunters while out in kayaks hunting for seal and sea otter. The visor provided a shield for the eyes from the sun, rain, and sea spray. Each hat was a work of art, reflecting the owner's personality, achievements, and status.



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W hale

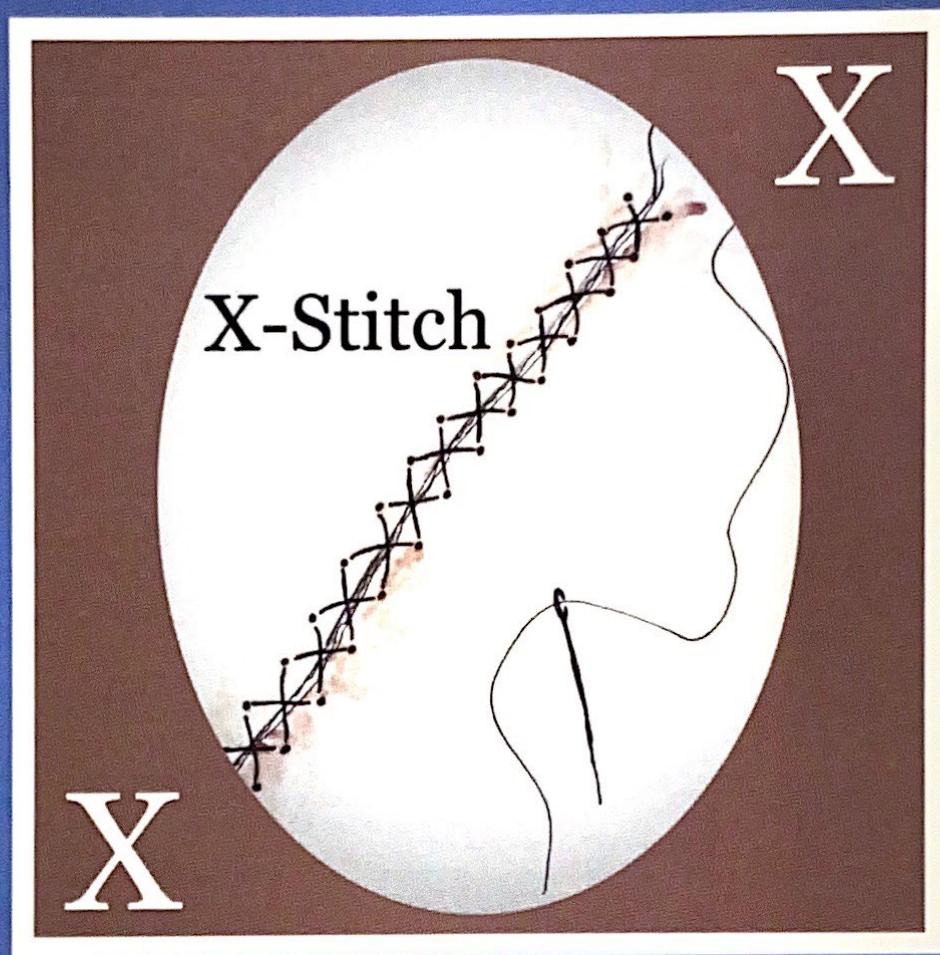
Sinews of large whale, porpoises, and seals were made into sinew thread.



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X-Stitch

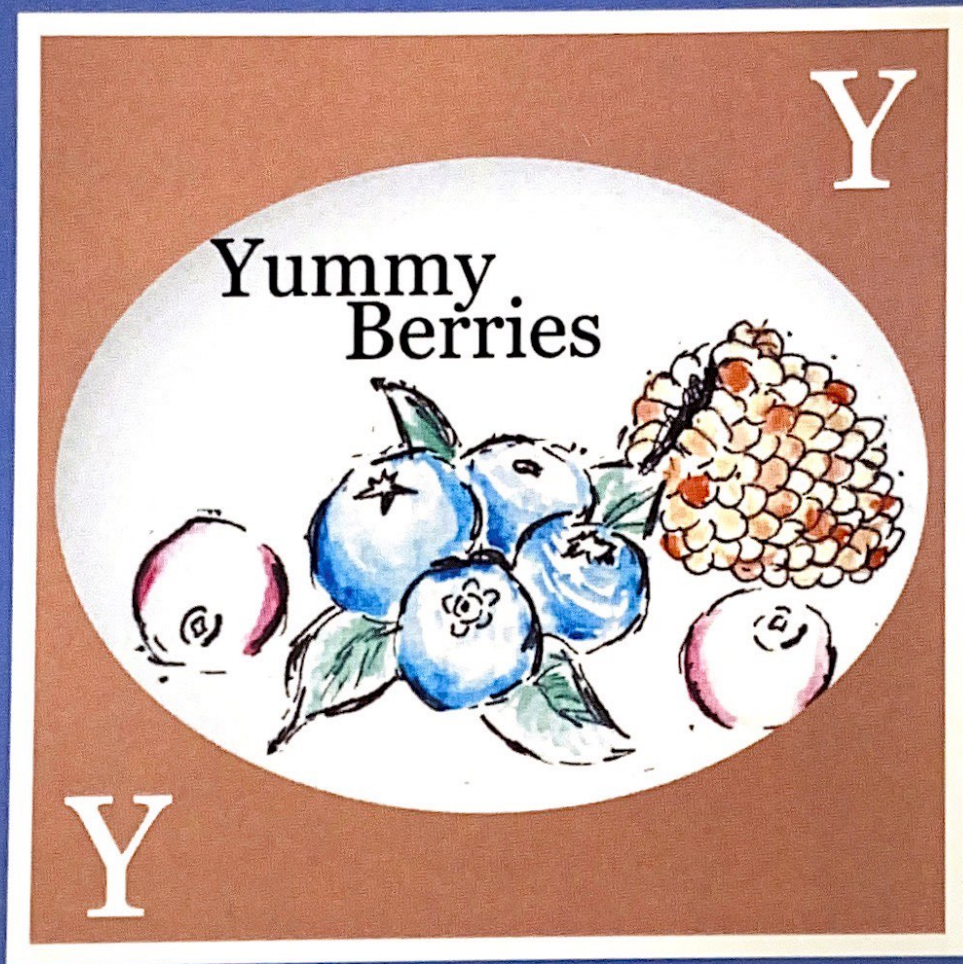
The X-stitch was used in sewing garments and also as a design in basketry.



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Yummy Berries

**At feasts, feathers, sometimes dyed with
cranberry and blueberry juice, were put
in headbands.**



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Zone

Prince William Sound and Lower Cook Inlet is the zone where Chugach and Eyak people live.



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