



## Comb

### Date

1660-1675

### Primary Maker

Seneca (Haudenosaunee)

### Medium

Moose or elk antler

### Description

Since late prehistoric times Haudenosaunee artists carved effigy-decorated combs made from wood, bone and antler. The combs were worn by men, women and children. After the introduction of metal tools in the 17th century, the carvings became more elaborate with finely cut teeth. The carvings reached their peak in development between 1650 and 1700, after which they slowly went out of fashion. The carver of this effigy comb skillfully made use of negative space to create balance and symmetry in his design of two wolves that face each

other. The wolf figures may represent clan affiliation.

### Dimensions

Overall: 4 3/4 × 2 1/2 in. (12.1 × 6.4 cm)