

Basic Detail Report



Digging Stick Handle

Date

Probably 18th century

Primary Maker

Western Plateau region

Medium

Elk antler

Description

Wooden digging sticks, hardened by fire, were the indispensable utensils of Native American women in their search for clams, camas roots, and edible plants. The women also carried hemp bags to transport the roots and plants that they gathered. Digging sticks of the Plateau region were made with a handle made of elk antler and enabled women to exercise more leverage. The handle was attached to a stick at right angles through an opening in the heavier part of the handle. Usually this was a round hole, but in this example it is square.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 3/4 × 1 1/2 in. (32.4 × 3.8 cm)