



## Atlatl

**Date**

1750-1800

**Primary Maker**

Tlingit

**Medium**

Yew, glass beads, iron pin

**Description**

A technological triumph, the atlatl was used to propel a weighted dart at much greater force than what could be done with the arms alone. It allowed people to hunt without getting near enough to the prey to be injured. However, this throwing board was more likely a shamanistic object than a true atlatl. It was used to

symbolically battle the evil spirits that caused misfortune, illness, and chaos. Because of this, the images carved into the atlatl were more important than functionality in itself. A vigilant bird sits atop the atlatl.

**Dimensions**

Overall: 1 1/2 × 1 × 15 in. (3.8 × 2.5 × 38.1 cm)