



Harpoon Socket

Date

100-300

Primary Maker

Old Bering Sea II (Siberian Yup'ik)

Medium

Walrus ivory

Description

This harpoon socket, one of a three-piece apparatus, was secured to the striking end of a harpoon. The surface of this walrus ivory is enriched and darkened with age, but the finely incised lines and patterns are still evident. Such patterns often reveal highly abstracted images of game animals such as bears and whales. The abstracted representation of animals on hunting equipment was

likely intended as a sign of respect.

Dimensions

Overall: 1 3/8 × 1 × 9 1/4 in. (3.5 × 2.5 × 23.5 cm)