



Hat

Date

1840-1850

Primary Maker

Central Yup'ik or Bering Sea Eskimo

Medium

Wood (cedar?), tanned hide, rush, bone, long-tailed Jaeger

Description

This hunting and fishing hat was an important part of the gear worn by Eskimo hunters in southwestern Alaska. The hat reduced the glare of the sun and water and protected the face from the rain and snow. The decorative spray of old squaw duck feathers at the back of the hat likely conveyed respect and acknowledged the importance of game animals. The long elegant feathers also had an aesthetic value. The feathers added an ephemeral quality and contrasted with the solidity of the wooden hat.

Dimensions

Overall: 12 × 9 1/4 × 8 1/4 in. (30.5 × 23.5 × 21 cm)