

Basic Detail Report



Harpoon Counterweight

Date

c. A.D. 100-300

Primary Maker

Old Bering Sea II (Siberian Yup'ik)

Medium

Walrus ivory

Description

Ivory objects such as this one are thought to have been used as counterweights on harpoons. Its shape, with two wing-like forms coming from the central segment, is

suggestive of a bird gliding through the air. Its use to facilitate the harpoon's flight adds to this interpretation. Hunters incised delicate geometric and abstract patterns on counterweights, likely as an aesthetic and symbolic expression.

Dimensions

Overall: 7 1/2 × 1 3/8 × 2 1/4 in. (19.1 × 3.5 × 5.7 cm)