

Basic Detail Report



Bag

Date

c. 1820-1840

Medium

Buffalo hide, glass beads

Description

This knife case, possible bag and leggings illustrate the earliest expressions of Plains beadwork. In the early 1800s European glass beads were rare and expensive: 100

beads cost one horse. Early beads were fairly large “pony” beads, but around 1850 smaller seed beads replaced pony beads. Beads were a new medium and women translated traditional quillwork and paint designs into beadwork. Simple geometric designs embellish this possible bag and knife case. The leggings are beaded and painted with symbolic markings that record the warrior’s accomplishments in battle. (Also see T0819 and T0822)

Dimensions

Overall: 15 × 26 × 3 in. (38.1 × 66 × 7.6 cm)