

# Americas (Pacific Rim)

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## **1 - Parka (*kamleika*)**

Made before 1869

Aleutian Islands, North Pacific

Taking a month to make, this parka was made by women from sea mammal gutskin. It is a waterproof outer garment that incorporates fur, dyed gut appliqué and red wool embroidery. Human hair also decorates the seams.

These hooded parkas were worn over a fur parka as protection against the harsh elements of the wind and rain. Parkas were sometimes worn daily by men. As gutskin tears easily, Aleut men would need replacement garments. Other parkas were worn for ceremonial activities by a shaman when making contact with the spirit world. These were hoodless with high collars and were decorated with coloured bands of skin at the collar, the cuffs and the hem.

Parkas were held in high regard as prestige items and valuable trade goods. In the 19th century, after the initial period of contact, parkas were sold or given as gifts to European and Russian visitors.

## **1 - Parka (*kamleika*)**

19th century

Inuit, Arctic region

A waterproof garment made from seal gut strips, which remain pliable in Arctic conditions. This type of parka was worn by men, over a fur or bird-skin parka, when out hunting in kayaks.

## **2 - Scraper**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Like many items in this case, this bone object was collected in the Kotzebue Sound region on the western side of the Alaskan peninsula by First Lieutenant George Peard on HMS Blossom, which was captained by Frederick William Beechey.

## **3 - Finger-pit scraper (*ellumerun*)**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cape Lisburne, Alaska

This ivory scraper has grooves for thumb and fingers and a slot to take a blade. This scraper would have been carefully shaped to fit the hand of the woman who used it.

#### **4 - Needle case belt hook**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This walrus ivory hook would have been attached to a belt to suspend a needle case.

#### **5 - Needlecase**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A tube of hollowed-out bone with a double length of fish skin threaded through. The needles are stuck into the length of skin, which is then pulled into the tube. A flint cutting blade is attached.

#### **6 - Pair of boots (*kamiit*)**

Collected before 1877

Inuit, Arctic region

A pair of sea mammal skin boots with gut, or sinew thread, stitching.

## **7 - Pair of boots (*kamiit*)**

Collected before 1877

Inuit, Upernavik, western Greenland

The peoples of Greenland on the North Atlantic seaboard share distinctive styles of clothing and footwear with west Alaskan Inuit peoples. These boots are made of sea mammal skin with sinew thread stitching.

## **8 - Arrow shaft straightener**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Made from walrus ivory, this tool was used for gripping an arrow or dart shaft in order to apply a bending force, or as a gauge for measuring the diameter of an arrow.

## **9 - Wrist guard**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A wrist guard, or bracer, used to prevent the bowstring from chafing the wrist when shooting an arrow. Straps are fastened through rectangular perforations on both sides of this bone wrist guard.

## **10 - Ice pick**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This walrus ivory tool was shaped for attaching to a harpoon shaft.

## **11 - Snow knives**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Three knives made from walrus ivory. They are shaped for a hand grip as well as for attaching to a harpoon shaft.

## **12 - Bow drill mouthpiece**

Collected between 1885 and 1889

Inuit, Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Arctic

This bow drill consists of a mouthpiece, a cylindrical drill shaft of wood and a drill bow. Points attached to drill shafts were initially of stone, later of iron and steel. This wooden mouthpiece has a small metal plate with an indentation to fit the shaft.



### **13 - Drill bows**

Collected 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A hide thong was attached to the ivory bow at each end and wound around the drill shaft. The bow was moved rapidly back and forth to rotate the shaft. Pointed with stone, the shaft was used to make holes in bone, antler, wood and stone.

### **14 - Suspension hook**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This ivory hook would have been used inside a dwelling to hang items from.

### **15 - Needles**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Two ivory needles made for repairing nets. The left needle is incised with the design of five kayaks. The right needle follows the curvature of the walrus tusk and its butt end is carved in the form of a boot.

## **16 - Sinew twisting rod**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This example with its curved handle is missing the stone blade that would have been lashed onto its end. It was used by women for working hide.

## **17 - Marlin spikes**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

These two spikes were used in conjunction with sinew twisting rods (see 16). The marlinspike was inserted among the strands of the backing cable of a bow (see 47) to allow the entry of the rods.

## **18 - Scraper**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This example with its curved ivory handle is missing the stone blade that would have been lashed onto its end. Used by women for working hide.

## **19 - Dolls**

Early to mid-20th century

Inuit, Baffin region, Nunavut

Two female wooden dolls with carved and painted features. The doll on the left wears the outdoor winter dress that consists of a hooded fur parka, trousers and skin boots. The doll on the right wears summer clothing.

## **20 - Model sled**

Early to mid-20th century

Inuit, Arctic region

Made with wood, fur, sinew and cotton thread. This model sled is loaded with furs, hunting implements and a catch of seals.

## **21 - Figurine**

Before 1871

Inuit, Arctic region

Made with ivory and sinew, this human figurine is characteristically carved without feet or arms. A length of braided sinew is tied around its neck. Such dolls served as children's toys and perhaps as amulets.

## **22 - Fish spear**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Tool made from wood, bone and sinew. The upper prong was aimed at its target and, due to the illusion caused by refraction in the water, the other two points speared the fish.

## **23 - Throwing stones (*Kiipooyaq* or *Kalumiktoun*)**

Collected before 1889

Inuit, Arctic region

Used for hunting waterfowl on land, and most effective when thrown into a flock of birds. These throwing stones, like *bolos*, were used by both Alaskans and Siberians.

## **24 - Seal pointer**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This walrus ivory pointer is carved in the form of a seal and decorated with dot and circle marks on the handle.

## **25 - Seal decoy**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cape Lisburne, Alaska

Used when stalking a seal on the ice. Scratching the surface of the ice reassures the seal that all is well by imitating the sound of movement of another of its kind. The item is made from wood, seal claws and sinew.

## **26 - Mouthpiece**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

This is used for inflating seal carcass buoys, which in turn are used to float whales that have been hunted and killed.

## **27 - Model sled**

Before 1868

Inuit, Hudson Bay

This is a wooden model of a dog team pulling a sled. Dogsleds enabled hunters to travel far out onto the ice in pursuit of such game as polar bears. The hunter wears clothing made of sealskin. Today the snowmobile has largely replaced the dogsled.

## **28 - Model kayak**

Before 1868

Inuit, Arctic region

A model one-hatch skin kayak, made as a child's toy or for ritual or exchange. From the late 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, kayak and *umiak* models were also made for sale to the European market.

## **29 - Model kayak**

Late 19th/early 20th century

Inuit, Arctic region

A miniature kayak, made as a toy or for sale or exchange outside the originating community.

## **30 - Harpoon-rest**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

An ivory harpoon-rest carved in the form of two bears.

### **31 - Walrus harpoon (*unck*)**

Before 1940

Inuit, Northeastern Canada or Greenland

The walrus was usually hunted from an *umiak*, a skin boat. The size of the harpoon depended on the size of its owner and, when in use, had bladder floats attached. This harpoon was made from driftwood, walrus ivory, hide and iron.

### **32 - Seal drags**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

These items were used to drag the seal home from where it was caught. The line is looped through an incision made in the lower jaw and the handle is attached to a longer line or to a dog's harness.

### **33 - Toggle-head harpoon**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Made of ivory and notched to carry a point. It has an ownership mark of a standing human figure with arms raised.

### **34 - Harpoon foreshafts**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A harpoon is a spear with a detachable shaft. Both of these foreshafts are made of bone, and both have ivory loose-shafts.

### **35 - Barbed spear head**

Voyages of HMS Chatham & HMS Discovery, 1791-5

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cook Inlet, Alaska

This item was collected on the voyage of Captain George Vancouver to the Northwest Coast of North America and south-east Alaska by midshipman J. W. Scott.

### **36 - Spear heads**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

The butts of these heads are carved to a point for insertion into shafts. Ownership marks consist of an arrow, a paw with four claws and three parallel diagonal lines.

### **37 - Toggle-head harpoon**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Bone toggle type harpoon head with a metal blade.



### **38 - Harpoon heads**

Voyage of HMS Discovery, 1791-5  
Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cook Inlet, Alaska

The top head has a stone point and a bone loose-shaft, carved in the form of a hand. The middle head is made of bone its head is slit for a point. The bottom one has a wooden loose-shaft that's shaped to fit into a socket.

### **39 - Fishing lure and weight**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7  
Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A fishing lure, resembling a small fish, and a weight, or sinker, made from caribou antler.

### **40 - Knife**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7  
Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A knife made with a wooden handle, braided gut or sinew binding, and a blade of hammered iron.

### **41 - Dipper**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7  
Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

A dipper, or baler, of fossil mammoth ivory.

## **42 - Harpoon head and sheaths**

Late 18th/early 19th century

Alaska or northwest British Columbia

Two bone harpoon heads with elaborate barbs. The sheath is made of two pieces of driftwood with compartments for three harpoon heads.

## **43 - Harpoon head and line**

Voyage of HMS Discovery, 1791-5

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cook Inlet, Alaska

An ownership mark of four small notches can be seen on this bone harpoon head near the base on one side. This was collected on the voyage of Captain George Vancouver to the Northwest Coast and south-east Alaska.

## **44 - Spearhead**

Voyage of HMS Discovery, 1791-5

Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Cook Inlet, Alaska

The base end is pointed for insertion into a shaft. The point is slotted for carrying a blade. This was acquired on the voyage of Captain George Vancouver.

## **45 - Arrows**

Voyage of HMS Blossom, 1826-7

4Yu'pik or Inupiaq, Alaska

Three arrows with notched wooden shafts, feather flights, ivory points and bindings of gut or sinew.

## **46 - Sea otter harpoon darts**

Collected late 18th/early 19th century

Inuit, Arctic region

Russian fur traders enslaved native hunters to kill sea otters for their luxuriant fur. The pelts were sold in Canton, China at great profit. In the early 19th century sea otters had been hunted almost to extinction.

## **47 - Reinforced wooden bow**

Before 1826

Inuit, Arctic region

Antler knee chocks help preserve the bow's curves. The cable faces away from the hunter adding strength and giving a range of up to 150 metres (495 feet). There is an old break to the wood, and the cable was cut through to mend the bow.

## **48 - Cap**

Collected before 1882

Aleutian Islands

Concentric rings of sea mammal gut ornamented with tufts of dyed wool and appliqué panels. The edge is decorated with strands of hair. All clothing is made by women who also make their own thread from sinew, and sewing needles from bird bone and ivory.

## **49 - Throwing boards**

Late 18th/early 19th century

Aleutian Islands

A throwing board is used to propel spears. It lends an 'extra joint' to the arm of the hunter putting additional power behind the throw and increasing range.

## **50 - Model kayak**

### **Model kayak**

19th century

Inuit, Arctic region

A model kayak of sealskin is stretched over a wooden frame. A figure in a sealskin parka sits in the kayak, carrying a paddle with sides and tips sheathed with ivory.

### **Kayak (above the case)**

Made before 1849

Greenland

The sealskin is stretched over a wooden frame and sewn with gut. This kayak is said to have been “taken off an Esquimaux accidentally shot when stealing by a sailor”.

### **Kayak paddle (above the case)**

Made before 1820

Inuit, Greenland

This double bladed paddle is made from two pieces of driftwood with bone at its tip and lashed together with baleen. It was acquired during Captain Parry’s voyage of 1819-20, possibly from Clyde Inlet.

## **51 - Head-band (*sapaunpe*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

A ceremonial crown of bark and wood shavings worn by elders when invoking or dismissing gods. It is associated with the Bear Festival, *Iomante*, when a young bear is killed to release its spirit called *ramat*.

## **52 - Tobacco box (*tampaku-op*) & pipe holder**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Carved wooden tobacco box and pipe holder, joined with blue fabric cord. The box has a tightly fitting lid to keep the tobacco fresh.

## **53 - Pipe (*ni-kiseri*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Carved from wood and with slight but distinctive Ainu decoration. This pipe is quite small and may have been smoked by a woman.

#### **54 - Prayer stick (*iku-pasui*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Wooden stick with elaborately carved decoration on one surface. It has an ownership mark on the underside. *Iku-pasui* are used to transfer sacred sake onto *inau*, and had spiritual and artistic importance.

#### **55 - Knife & sheath (*menoko makiri*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Made from imported metal, knives were used by both men and women. Wood carving was done by men. The knife and sheath are joined by a cord and closed with a wooden netsuke. The netsuke is carved to represent a group of three mushrooms.

#### **56 - Weaving implement (*attush-pera*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

This wooden *pera*, or beater, has engraved designs on both sides. This is used with a small loom for making, for example, sword belts and head-bands. Each area had its own distinctive textile design and it is possible to identify the work of a particular village or weaver.

### **57 - Weaving loom part (*o-usa*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Split wooden reeds inserted into a carved wooden frame. This part of a back strap loom was used to separate warp threads, each thread passing between each pair of reeds.

### **58 - Pair of earrings (*ninkari*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

The oval metal beads are incised with characteristic Ainu designs.

### **59 - Coat (*attush amip*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Clothing (*amip*) of elm bark cloth (*attush*) was made on a full size loom. Sometimes indigo-dyed cotton thread was added to the warp. The design was appliquéd using cotton cloth cut from old Japanese kimono or from old bed covers, with embroidery in couched thread.



## **60 - Apron (*seta-ur*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

This cloth is made of elm bark fibre and cotton, with embroidered indigo appliqué. The designs seen here contain elements believed to ward off evil spirits.

## **61 - Legging (*hosi*)**

Before 1896

Ainu, Ishicari district, Hokkaido

Women and children wove cloth and applied decoration of appliqué and embroidery. In a ceremony called *hoku eikara* a new bride gave her husband leggings, a head-dress and a girdle that she had made.