



Cradle Board with Sun Shade

Date
19th Century

Primary Maker
Yurok

Medium
Hazelnut shoot and deer rawhide

Description

This object is a 19th century cradle board with a conical-peaked sun shield, made in the lower Klamath River region of Northern California. Based on the location of its manufacture, it was most likely made by either the Yurok, Hupa, or Karok people. Babies sat with their legs hanging freely in cradles such as this, with leather straps holding them firmly and safely in place. Twigs inserted at the bottom formed a foot rest used during the baby's infancy. When traveling, the cradle was strapped to the mother's back. When at home, it was usually fastened to a nearby tree where the baby could observe the activities surrounding them. The cradles were often kept by families as heirlooms and for use by successive generations.

Dimensions

a: 12 × 24 in. (30.5 × 61 cm)