



animal skin and filled with organic materials.

Dimensions

26 × 4 × 4 in. (66 × 10.2 × 10.2 cm)

Sword

Date

early 19th Century

Primary Maker

Ngombe

Medium

Metal, fiber and hide

Description

This is a short sword made by the Ngombe, Poto, or Doko speaking peoples of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the early 19th Century. These swords were used as weapons, objects of power, and as marriage currency. The incised geometric design on this sword's blade is also found on other blades. While it is unknown what the design means, it is possible that it could act as an ideogram connected to symboladen tribal markings found on important individuals or have symbolic meaning that we cannot decipher. The sword's pommel is made of