

Basic Detail Report



Spear Thrower (Woomera)

Date

mid 19th - early 20th Century

Medium

Wood and resin

Description

Woomera are tools that when used to throw a spear effectively served as an extension of a man's arm. Woomera increased the precision, velocity and distance of a spear. To use this tool, the point of the spear thrower is inserted into a conical depression found at the butt of a spear. The spear thrower is then grasped by the base of the handle. There are various techniques for throwing the spear. The method used depends on the task at hand and the preferences of the man throwing the spear. The resin covering found on the handle of the spear thrower serves as a balancing agent and ensures that the moisture on one's hands does not allow the spear thrower to fall or drop out of one's hand. The spear thrower was an effective tool for warfare and hunting. The handles of woomera could be fitted with a cutting tool of stone or shell. With this attachment, the spear thrower also could be used as an effective "all purpose" tool for domestic use.

Dimensions

30 × 4 3/4 × 1 1/2 in. (76.2 × 12.1 × 3.8 cm)