



Helmet (Replica)

Date

2021

Primary Maker

I-Kiribati

Medium

Porcupine fish, palm and fiber

Description

The horrific wounds inflicted by shark tooth weapons were largely mitigated by the elaborate armor worn by Kiribati warriors. A full set of armor consisted of a loosely woven coconut fiber full body suit, the more densely woven coconut fiber and human hair cuirass with attached head guard, and a largely ornamental helmet such as this one made from a dried porcupine fish. This helmet is a contemporary replica made using the same methods that would have been used by I-Kiribati craftsmen. Given that killing a foe often involved settling a debt by paying land

to the family of the deceased, heavy sets of armor ensured that most combats ended in non-fatal wounds.

Dimensions

13 1/2 × 10 3/4 × 8 1/2 in. (34.3 × 27.3 × 21.6 cm)