

Historica Fair Project

Title: Equipment & Weapons

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Describe your project:

Our project is about the equipment that was used long time ago by the Inuit and weapons to protect them self.

Resources: How Did You Find Your Information?

We used books like “Uqalurait: An Oral History of Nunavut” We also used our class material, our teacher, the internet and our families.

What Did You Find Out as A Result Of Your Research?

We found out that the bow drill is the most important piece of equipment during that time. We also made a bow drill.

Describe Your Personal Interest In The Project And Why You Chose It.

We picked it because we were interested in weapons and equipment and maybe though we could learn more about our traditions.

Bow-Drill

- To work the Bow-Drill the user moves the bow-drill back and forth with one hand.
- The drill stick was made of wood or caribou antler.
- The mouthpiece at the top of the drill stick was made of ivory or hard wood.
- The metal drill bit was at the bottom of the drill bit.
- The bow-drill was used making fires or holes in wood or antler



This is a bow drill in action making a fire

Mud Runners

- Adding mud to the runners allowed Qamutiiks to slide more easily over snow and ice.
- With the sled turned upside down, wet mud spread over the bottom of the runners and was carefully smoothed out.
- This left a layer of ice on the top of the mud, so that the runners were very smooth and slippery.
- This made the Qamutiik move easier

Ivory Runners

- In areas of the Arctic where walrus could be hunted traditional Inuit sometimes made sled runners from walrus tusk ivory.
- And ivory runners had two other advantages over mud runners.
- They didn't easily break off and they didn't melt if left in direct sun light like mud runners



This is a picture of a dog team heading to travel to another area. The dogs are pulling a sled made with ivory runners.

Harpoon

- The harpoon was the most important weapon for the Inuit.
- There were two main types of harpoon
 - Breathing- harpoon
 - Open-water harpoon.
- Harpoon heads made of an antler was better then ivory, as ivory would freeze up and shatter in the winter.
- The long shaft was the main part of the body and was usually made of wood.
- The fore shaft was shorter than the long shaft and was attached to the top of the harpoon
- The harpoon head was made from bone and was attached to the end of the fore shaft.



This is one Inuk hunting on the ice using the best harpoon



Here are six different types of harpoon heads and different sizes of harpoon heads

Bow And Arrows

- Bow and arrows were used to hunt land mammals and birds.
- They were difficult to aim and had a relatively short range.
- Two different forms of bows were made.
- Arrows must aim for the lungs or the heart of the animal.
- As the caribou walked, the arrows would go in deeper.
- The Inuk also used bow and arrows to hunt marine mammals.
- Inuit made their arrows from bone and sinew



Here are two men in this photo hunting for the meat using a bow and arrow

