



### Snow Goggles

Several kinds of snow goggles were made by Arctic groups to help prevent temporary blindness from snow and ice glare.

They are usually carved from a single piece of bone or, like the ones on display here, driftwood.

Vision is provided through a narrow horizontal slit. Snow goggles have been found in prehistoric sites in Alaska, evidence that Native Alaskans had “sunglasses” long before European contact.



*Canadian Inuit wearing snow goggles, ca. 1950.*

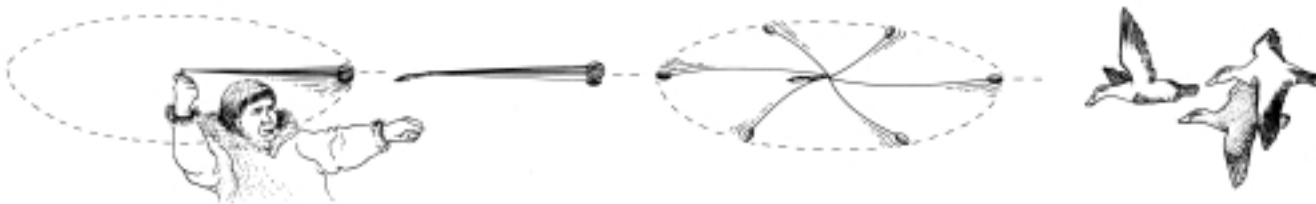
### Seal Call

Arctic hunters employ ice scratchers when stalking seals sunning themselves on the ice. The hunter reassures his prey by scratching on the ice with these claw-like implements (sometimes known as seal calls) to imitate the sound of a seal.



### Bolas

Bolas are tools used for bird hunting. Weights are tied to lines made of animal sinew or skin and bound together. The bolo is whirled around the head and thrown at birds in flight, as illustrated below. The birds get tangled in the lines and are forced down.



*Inuit woman using an ulu to cut fish, ca. 1940.*

### Ulu

The ulu is found among many Arctic groups. These all-purpose knives have been used for centuries by Inuit women for skinning and butchering seals, scraping skins, and cooking. Blades are made of metal or stone and handles of wood, bone, or antler.

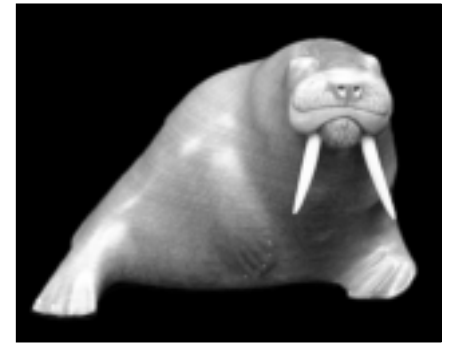
### Shell Reloader

Ammunition paraphernalia utilizing native materials, such as the bone-and-metal shell reloader on exhibit here, are examples of native adaptation to the introduction of new technology. Native Alaskans acquired muzzle-loading firearms from early Russian traders.



### Inuit

The Inuit (also known as Eskimo), have lived along the northernmost coasts of Siberia, Alaska, Canada, and Greenland for thousands of years and have developed a way of life that allows them to survive in this extreme Arctic environment. Their traditional lifestyle was nomadic, with groups following the seasonal movements of animals such as caribou, seal, polar bear, walrus, and whales. There are around 100,000 Inuit in the world today. Although many contemporary Inuit live a modern, less nomadic lifestyle than their ancestors, hunting and fishing are still important aspects of their subsistence and culture.



### Resources

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[[www.arcticpeoples.org/icc.htm](http://www.arcticpeoples.org/icc.htm)].  
Murdoch, David. *North American Indian*. Eyewitness Books Series, Alfred A. Knopf, 1995.

### Credits

The following photos and illustrations are from Damas, 1984 (Cover Photo: p. 317, Fig. 22; Snow Goggles: p. 450, Fig. 6; Seal Call: p. 325, Fig. 5; Bolas: p. 272, Fig. 15; Ulu: p. 404, Fig. 6; Shell Reloader: p. 305, Fig. 3.)