

Alaska: King Island (Frances Ross Collection):

2013.0012.0001

Inuit (Alaska: King Island)

Date: Unknown

Donor: Frances Ross (Nome, Alaska) (donated: ca.1974)

Kayak frame

Wooden frames such as this, covered with sea mammal skins, created a light, durable maneuverable craft in which Eskimo hunters could travel long distances in pursuit of sea mammals such as walrus and seal, a staple in their diet. The single hatch in this craft is for the accommodation of a single Eskimo hunter. Through various techniques of sealing the water-proof skin parka of the hunter about this hatch the craft could be made virtually water-proof. Larger open skin boats (umiaks) allowed a number of people to undertake relatively long sea voyages (i.e. between Siberia and the Alaskan mainland). The use of metal in the construction and repair of this particular specimen is due to European contact.

No measurements available

2013.0012.0002

Inuit (Alaska: King Island)

Date: Unknown

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Seal club

This hard wooden club was kept in the kayak and used to administer the coup de grace to harpooned sea mammals which had exhausted themselves sufficiently to be brought alongside by means of the line attached to the harpoon head. This particular specimen is shaped in the general form of a seal with carved and painted eyes.

No measurements available

2013.0012.0003

Inuit (Alaska: King Island)

Date: 1960s?

Donor: Frances Ross (Nome, Alaska) (donated: 1960s?)

Kayak paddle

301.5 x 3 x 8.5 cm
