

Knife to butcher

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Collections / knife



Carving knife with caribou antler handle and metal blade: savik in Inuit.

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Period 20th century

Materials antlers, caribou, metal

Measurements 2,5 x 21,5 x 5 cm

Historical context

This skinning knife (savik, in Inuit) is a modern, handcrafted tool inspired by an ancient model that is still in use today. Its sharp, pointed metal blade is inserted and double-riveted into a solid piece of caribou antler, which serves as the handle. Inuit ancestors were already making them during the Thule period, also known as the Inuit period (around 800 to 250 years before present). In the past, the blade was often fashioned from slate and polished. Generally curved and single-edged, it could be attached to a wooden handle. This multi-purpose tool is used for butchering as well as for removing the skin or fur of game animals. Its medium-length blade, now generally double-edged, and its ease of handling make it ideal for a wide range of domestic tasks.

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