

# Tool

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Collections / tool



Power grips (aksagaq) used in a shooting duel, consisting of two cylindrical bone parts joined by a bearded seal leather strap (utjuk).

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Accession Number 2022.18.69

Period 20th century

Materials bone, caribou, leather, bearded seal (utjuk)

Measurements 12,5 x 10 cm

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## Historical context

These grips (aksagaq in Inuit) are used in a shooting duel. In this modern version, they are made up of two cylindrical bone parts joined at the center by a short strip of bearded seal hide (utjuk) knotted to the inside of each bone.

This traditional Inuit game involves sitting on the ground in front of your opponent, leaning against him or her. Each player grabs a handle and pulls, trying to bring the opponent towards him or her. The handles can be coated with a greasy substance to make them slippery, adding a high degree of difficulty!

The aim of this game of strength was not only to defeat your opponent, but also to increase, if not maintain, your muscularity, endurance, agility and, so to speak, various hunting skills. Remember that it takes a

great deal of physical strength and flexibility, for example, to pull a seal or walrus out of the water.

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