

Basic Detail Report



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Title

Woomera (spear-thrower)

Date

1850-1950

Medium

Wood Spinifex Resin

Dimensions

Overall: 820 × 50 × 13 mm, 256 g

Name

Spear-thrower

History

The woomera, or miru, is primarily known as a spear thrower - used for hunting or in combat. Made of a hard wood, such as Blackwood or Mulga, the woomera is designed to project a spear further than by hand use alone. The spear is placed into the small peg carved into end of the while spinifex resin covers the other end and enables the thrower more grip. Inserted into the Spinifex resin of the handle of some woomeras is very sharp piece of quartz rock used for cutting, shaping or sharpening. Varying designs and shapes of woomera throughout different communities provide for additional uses including fire starting, food preparation of ochre mixing for ceremonies.