

Gaming—Wamenguartaallriit

This group of objects includes items used in gaming (gambling), typically by adults (Table 8.13, Figure 8.21). Children’s playthings—dolls, miniatures, and boat carvings are not included here.

Table 8.13. Alutiiq terms for gaming objects

English	Alutiiq	Comment
Augca’aq Dart	Ruuwaq ^m	
Augca’aq Target	Augca’am napataa ^c	
Dice	Maqat ^m	Also generically a game piece
Gaming Ball	Mayaciingcuk ^c	
Kakangaq Disc	Kakangaqutaq ^h	
Kakangaq Target	Kakangam napataa ^c	
Tally Stick	Cit’suutet ^c , Ciqsuutet ^c (N)	

m = term in modern usage, h = historic term, c = term created by Elder Alutiiq speakers, N = Northern way of speaking

Figure 8.21. Examples of gaming artifacts from Karluk One (AM193).





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

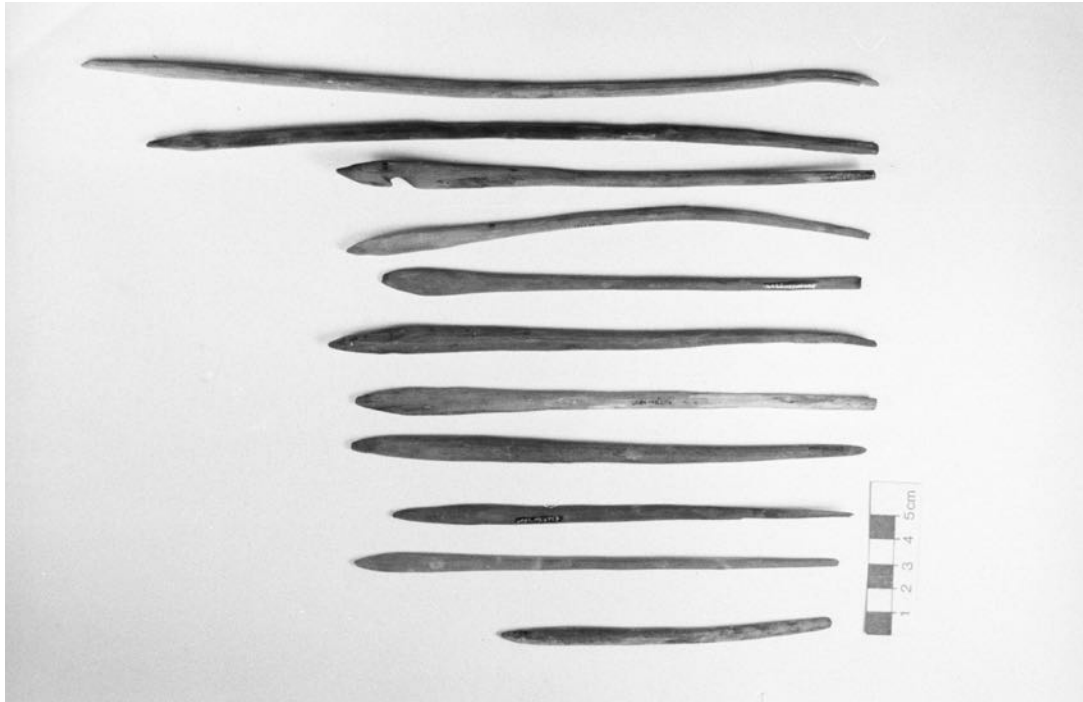
Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Augca'aq Dart		Alutiiq Names	Ruuwaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Gaming	Function	Game piece
Common Materials	Wood				
LxWxD (cm)	14 to 33 cm long and about 1 cm in diameter				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One, Malina Creek		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Augca'aq is a throwing game still played in Kodiak Alutiiq communities. In this game, men toss darts at a whale or porpoise model suspended from a string about a couple centimeters off the floor. Each target is divided into areas with unique point values.</p> <p>Augca'aq darts in the Karluk One collection are made of wood and have long narrow shafts with a flat, oval, pointed end. These darts are similar in shape to those made by modern craftsmen, though longer. The proximal ends of these darts, the part held in the throwers hand, typically taper to a narrow, squared-off end. Most darts lack a sharp tip. One example from Karluk One has a copper tip, and another features a notch where a tip could be inserted, but most are self-pointed. It appears that most darts were designed to hit a target but not stick to it. The darts are largely undecorated, although one has remnants of paint on its surface.</p>				
References	<p>Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.</p> <p>Mishler, Craig, 1997, Aurcaq: Interruption, Distraction, and Reversal in an Alutiiq Men's Dart Game. American Journal of Folklore 436:189-201.</p>				
Last Update	07/23/2021		Updated By	Amy Steffian	

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

AUGCA'AQ DART

Augca'aq Darts from Karluk One (AM193)



Augca'aq game pieces from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

The small bark carvings are shaped like animals (bird, porpoise), but are relatively flat and without many detailed features. They were designed to be suspended from a string, for players to throw darts at, but don't feature hanging holes . . . the examples may be preforms or pieces that were not used.

An example from Malina Creek is shaped like a porpoise and has a recess in the center. This may be a "bullseye", based on modern scoring rules for this game. Alutiiq people still make these game sets and play darts, particularly during lent.

References

Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.

Mishler, Craig, 1997, Aurcaq: Interruption, Distraction, and Reversal in an Alutiiq Men's Dart Game.

Last Update

Updated By

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

AUGCA'AQ TARGET

Bird target of bark, Karluk One (AM193)



Porpoise target of bark, Malina Creek (AM24)



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Dice		Alutiiq Names	Maqat	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Gaming	Function	Game pieces
Common Materials	Ivory, bone, wood				
LxWxD (cm)	from 3 to 8 cm long				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Macaq pieces were used in a dice tossing game (Davydov 1977:183; Lisianski 1814:211). Today, people play this game with a small, five-sided piece of wood or bone. Each face of the die is a different size and carries a specific point value (Steffian and Counciller 2012:46). Players sit in a circle and toss the die. Each tries to make the die land on the smallest face to earn the most points.</p> <p>Most of these artifacts are roughly bullet shaped, narrower on one end than the other, with a flat bottom. This shape closely resembles a historic die drawing (Lisianski 1814:204). Karluk One specimens are interesting, however, as most appear to be representations of bears. One die is a sturdy, four-legged animal that may be a standing bear. Another is a detailed carving of a bear's head. The shapes of other dice may be abstract representations of a bear's head.</p>				
References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.				
Last Update	07/14/2021		Updated By	Amy Steffian	

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

DICE

Wood and ivory dice from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Gaming Ball	Alutiiq Names	Mayaciingcuk		
Industry	Pecked Cobble	Activity	Gaming	Function	Game piece
Common Materials	Greywacke, granite, clay, wood				
LxWxD (cm)	ca. 4cm in diameter				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One		
	<input checked="" type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>Gaming balls are spherical pieces of stone or clay thought to have been used in a tossing game—like yaamaq or kakangaq. They tend to occur in archaeological sites in clusters. Most are unmodified spheres of greywacke and granite—water worn stones likely collected from the beach. However, a small number of these pieces are molded clay. The clay examples are also spherical and appear unfired. They are lumps of clay made into balls and dried. Craftspeople probably added water to the clay to make it malleable. There is no evidence of temper.</p> <p>A few examples of carved round wooden artifacts in the size of gaming balls may be an organic variety of this tool type.</p>				
References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.				
Last Update	05/09/2021	Updated By	Amy Steffian		

GAMING BALLS

Gaming Balls from Karluk One.



Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names	Kakangaq Disc		Alutiiq Names	Kakangaqutaq	
Industry	Carving	Activity	Gaming	Function	Tossing game pieces
Common Materials	Wood, bark, bone				
LxWxD (cm)	See below				
Tradition	<input type="checkbox"/> Ocean Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Kachemak	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Koniag	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Alutiiq	
Miniature	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes	Example Sites Found	Karluk One		
	<input type="radio"/> No/Unknown				
Description	<p>In this game, players throw wooden or bone disks at a small target laid on a sealskin. The disks are made from wood and bark, although there are a few carved from whalebone. They vary widely in shape and size. Some are as large as a plate, others are tiny, perhaps even toys.</p> <p>A review of the Karluk One collection shows there are four distinct size classes based on maximum width:</p> <p>large (>13 cm) medium (>7 and <13 cm) small (>4.5 and <7 cm) miniature (<4.5 cm).</p> <p>Medium and small examples are the most common. Most of the disks are trapezoidal, roughly square at the base and gently domed in the center, but some are rectangular, round, or even oval. A small number of disks also have unique features. A few have pebbles set into their bases, to provide weight for throwing and knocking an opponent's disks off of the target. Others are decorated with carvings—geometric designs or a face. These decorations may have helped players to distinguish their pieces from those used by opponents or provided luck. In short, the variety of disks suggests that players designed their own sets, individually tailoring the style of their kakangaq pieces.</p>				
References	Knecht, Richard A., 1995, The Late Prehistory of the Alutiiq People: Culture Change on the Kodiak Archipelago from 1200–1750 AD. PhD dissertation, Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA.				
Last Update	07/14/2021		Updated By	Amy Steffian	

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

KAKANGAQ DISC

Kakangaq disks from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

In this game, players throw wooden or bone disks at a target laid on a sealskin. According to one historic account, targets were typically round, made from bone, and the size of a coat button (Merck 1980:109). Targets from Karluk One are typically small, roughly round at the base, and taper to a flat round top. One example has black paint on its tapering sides.

References

Last Update

Updated By

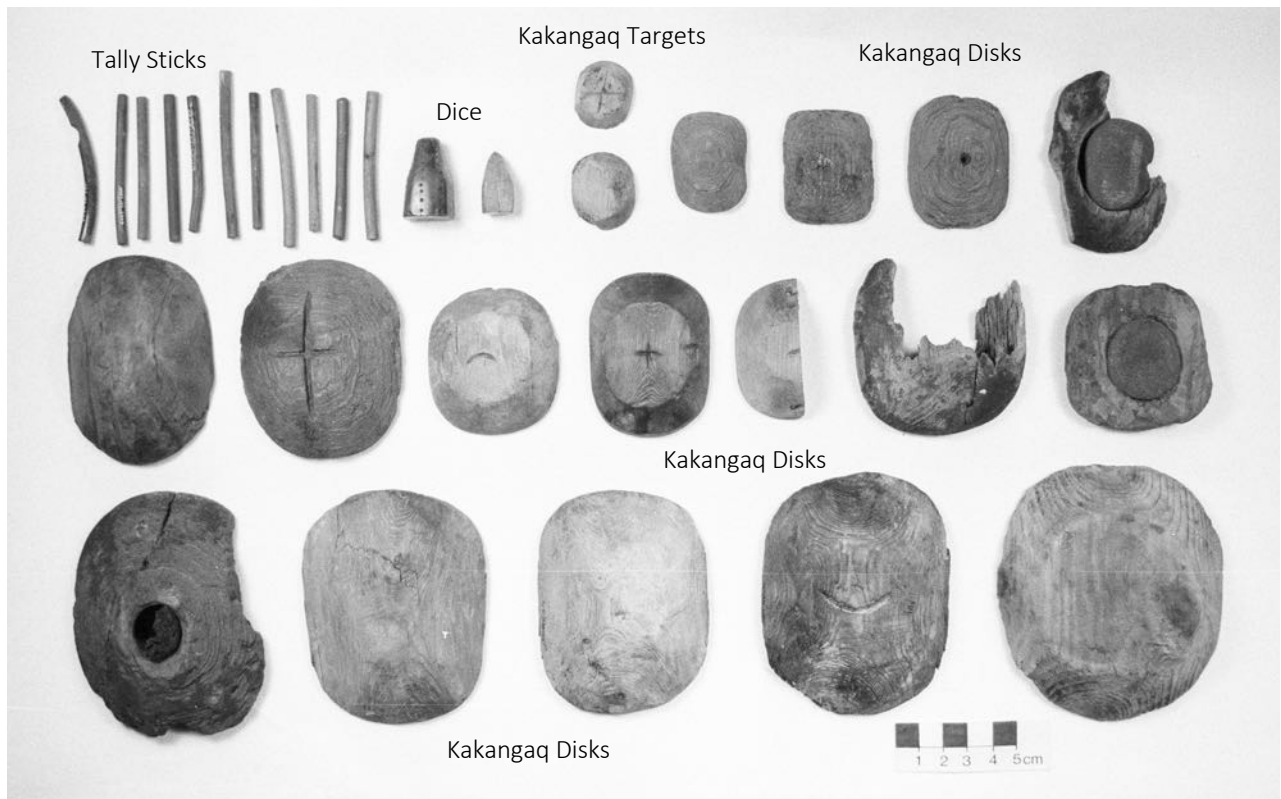
Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

KAKANGAQ TARGET

Kakangaq target from Karluk One (AM193)



Gaming pieces from Karluk One (AM193)





Alutiiq Technological Inventory

Artifact Class Summary Sheet

English Names **Alutiiq Names**

Industry **Activity** **Function**

Common Materials

LxWxD (cm)

Tradition Ocean Bay Kachemak Koniag Alutiiq

Miniature Yes No/Unknown **Example Sites Found**

Description

The small wooden cylinders are carefully carved with a straight shaft and flat ends. They are shaped like a cigarette, but smaller, and are remarkably standardized in size and shape. They were used to count points by people playing games like Kakangaq and Augca'aq. They are very common artifacts and are often found in groups.

References

Last Update

Updated By

Alutiiq Technological Inventory—Carved Organic

TALLY STICK

A pile of tally stick uncovered at Karluk One (AM193)



Close up of tally sticks from Karluk One (AM193)

