

Layer 1 (bottom layer) Stratigraphy Card

Digging Stick Tip

Humans used the digging stick to loosen soil for gardening or other tasks for thousands of years. People used a sharpened stick initially and eventually added bone tips to make a stronger point. This digging stick tip is made of a bison leg bone (tibia). Because heating adds strength to the bone, bone tools made with this process could be sharpened and resharpened many times.

Archeological research shows that as early as 2000 B.C. at least one Native American group in the Central Plains may have started planting and harvesting seeds in addition to gathering wild plants. This tradition eventually led to the cultivation of crops in the Central Plains around A.D. 1. Tools, such as this digging stick tip, would have been used by some of these early people. The digging stick continued in use until metal implements were brought in by the fur trade starting in the late seventeenth century.

