

Layer 3 (center layer)

Stratigraphy Card

Grassing Needle

This specialized tool was invented for the purpose of building grass-covered houses and other structures. Blunting one end of a piece of bone and attaching cordage to the other end turned a rib, or other flat thin bone, into a needle-like tool. Native American women used this grassing needle to sew bundles of tall prairie grass onto the pole frame of a grass house. The ancestors of the Wichita Indians used bone grassing needles at least as far back as A.D. 1450. Accounts from Oklahoma in the nineteenth century report Wichita women using yard-long cottonwood needles rather than bone tools.

