

ARCTIC RESOURCE

Artist Kate Munro has chosen this object for us to look at. Can you find it in our gallery? What do you think it is?



See this online
<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/830-snow-goggles/>

Kate said:

"I love these snow goggles! They are beautifully made, and a perfect example of how people have found solutions to climate challenges for thousands of years. As well as being practical, they are stylish and would disguise the wearer well. I imagine Arctic People had fun with different designs, and guessing who was beneath them!"

FROM: The Arctic -
Punuk Islands, part of St.
Lawrence, the Bering Sea.
MADE: 500 – 1200 AD
MATERIAL: Walrus Ivory
SIZE: 13cm wide
OBJECT NUMBER: 830

Object
photography:
Pete Huggins.
All other images:
Kate Munro

MATERIALS AND MAKING

These Snow Goggles are carved from ivory, from the tusk of a Walrus.

What tools do you think would have been used to shape them?

Look very closely, can you see the fine decorative lines which have been lightly carved into the surface?



Do you know what goggles and sunglasses are made from now?

The frames of goggles and sunglasses are mostly made from plastic, although recently we have seen some made from bamboo, and even old fishing nets collected from the sea in Cornwall.

What other environmentally-friendly materials do you think we could make goggles or sunglasses from?

WHY WERE THESE MADE?

The combination of sunshine, shiny ice, and white snow can cause snow blindness. Therefore, people who live in this type of environment have had to find solutions to this problem. By looking through the thin slits of the Snow Goggles (which is a bit like squinting) their eyes are protected from some of the glare, and reflected light, making it easier to see in these conditions.

Have a go – peek through the small gaps between your fingers, to see how your sight is affected.

For thousands of years, humans have found ways to survive and thrive in the Arctic. People there have created all that they need for protection in their extreme climate – tools, shelters, clothing.



We can take inspiration from the innovative Inuit people who made these Snow Goggles, to find creative ways to live better with our changing climate.

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Use this page to draw a person wearing the goggles.

Are they on their own? What might their friends' goggles look like?

DRAWING ACTIVITY

Use this page to design your own goggles.

When and where would you wear your goggles?

What might they protect you from?

THIS MAKES ME WONDER.....

As well as being functional, these goggles have been carefully carved, and decorated with little holes, which may have had tiny stones in them. I wonder why.

I wonder if the Goggles have been shaped to look like a fox.

I wonder what other animals live in the Arctic.

I wonder how the Goggles would have been attached, or held in place.

I wonder who made the Goggles?

I wonder who wore these Goggles, and what they did when they had them on.

I wonder what other clothes the person would wear.

I wonder why the other Snow Goggles in the Sainsbury Collection have different shaped eye holes.

I wonder how they came to be in a museum.



See this online
<https://www.sainsburycentre.ac.uk/art-and-objects/1159-snow-goggles/>

WHAT DO YOU WONDER?

Use this page to make a note of your thoughts about the Snow Goggles.

Let your mind wander... write or draw your ideas about the object. Maybe you have lots of different questions... maybe some have answers, and others may be things we can only ever wonder....

Be brave, write freely and fill the page... some things which may seem silly at first, could turn out to be really useful thoughts....