

Layer 3 (center layer) Stratigraphy Card

Bison Scapula Hoe Blade

Native Americans made tools from the bones of bison, and other large mammals, for thousands of years. With slight modification the scapula (shoulder blade) of a bison made a strong and efficient digging tool. As Native Americans began gardening around A.D. 1 this tool came into more extensive use. Hoes had many uses ranging from cultivating corn, squash, and beans to digging underground pits for storing surplus crops over the winter. The scapula hole was so important and central to the Native American way of life that the Pawnee continued to use it until the late nineteenth century, even after the introduction of iron hoes by European traders.

