

Sinew

Object Card

Sinew is the tendons and ligaments of animals. Plains Indians used sinew from the buffalo like we use thread, rope, or glue today. By lacing sinew through holes punched in hides they made clothing and tipis. It became strings for their bow. As wet sinew dried it hardened and shrank. This made it good for attaching an arrowhead to a wooden shaft, a stone knife blade to a handle, or a sharpened scapula bone hoe to a handle.

