The digging stick was one of the earliest tools used by humans to loosen soil for gardening or other tasks. At first a simple sharpened stick would have been used. Around A.D. 1, planting seeds and cultivating crops became a more important food-getting process than previously for many Native American groups on the Central Plains. The addition of a sharpened, heat-tempered bone to the end of the wooden stick created a stronger and more durable tool. This digging stick tip, made from a bison leg bone (tibia), could have been re-sharpened many times.