



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

This is a wooden frame used to block and shape a beaver hat. It consists of five adjustable pieces: four pieces adjust inward and outward to create a specific size; the fifth, a center piece, moves up and down to adjust the height of the finished hat. The frame is used in the third stage of making a hat after the beaver fur has been processed into sheets or “bats” of felt. This frame is from the early 19th century. Artifact courtesy Glorieta Private Collection.

SUGGESTED USES

Combine this artifact with the Beaver Hat 3D image in discussions of:

1. The Fur Trade – as an end product either as an introduction to the trade, or as part of the understanding that the fur trade had extensions beyond the mountain men and the West.
2. Industrial Revolution – as an example of the factory process. Googling the term “beaver hat production” will provide the many steps in felting a beaver hat.