



DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

This is a special weapon found in the infantry ranks and generally wielded by sergeants. The halberd was usually mounted on a pole that varied from five feet to eight feet in length. The halberd consisted of a long (12" to 13") wrought iron or steel spear point, with a spike mounted below and opposite a hook on the backside. The hook was used to engage mounted opponents. First used in medieval times, by the Revolutionary War the halberd was more a symbol of rank than an effective weapon. Artifact courtesy Glorieta Private Collection.

SUGGESTED USES

1. This is an effective artifact to stimulate engagement. Ask what is this? How do you think it was used? It is very unlikely that anyone will (without the use of Google Images) be able to identify this item correctly. Identification is not the important point, it is the analytical process used to describe the item combined with reasoned, evidence-based (information from the analysis) conclusions that is important.
2. Conduct the analysis and synthesis portions of artifact analysis. Then give students the information described above. Ask, "Why do you think that this was a symbol of rank rather than a weapon during the Revolutionary War?" "What is different in the Revolutionary War that makes this item obsolete?" "How does this item indicate that the Revolutionary War marked a change from the Medieval battles fought between knights?"