



## DESCRIPTION AND SUGGESTED USES

This is a 17<sup>th</sup> century axe used for hewing, the process of converting a **log** from its rounded natural form into **lumber** (timber) with more or less flat surfaces. It is called a “goosewing axe” because the blade resembles the wing of a goose. It is of European design with a straight socket and a bent handle. It was not used to chop trees, but to finish timber into logs or furniture. Artifact courtesy Glorieta Private Collection.

## SUGGESTED USES

The support documents that accompany this artifact provide a good lesson on tools and their uses. In addition, we would suggest the following:

1. Compare and contrast this Goosewing Axe with the American Felling Axe. Good questions to ask involve the size of the blades and potential uses for each.
2. In a discussion of the Colonial Era in the US, or the Middle Ages in World History, the Goosewing Axe plays an important role.
  - a. Why would Europeans have the Goosewing as their principal axe by the 17<sup>th</sup> century?
  - b. Why would the Goosewing Axe not work well for the European colonists in North America?
3. If teachers wish to use a scientific and technological approach, begin with the problems that colonists faced and determine what changes needed to be made to European tools in order for them to work.