

Flintknapping a Projectile Point

Use basic materials from around the house and practice the basic skills of flintknapping to create your own projectile point.



Supplies

- Bar soap
- Utensils (plastic knife, spoon, fork or popsicle stick)
- Marker or sharpie

Background

During the prehistoric era, groups of Native Americans would gather lithic resources from local or distant rock quarries to make their stone tools. When making stone tools, people would follow a step-by-step reduction process, working from raw cobble all the way down to completed tool.

Lithic Reduction Process:

Cobble>Core>Biface>Preform>Tool

Vocabulary

Lithics: Tools or other items made from stone, and leftover flake fragments from tool making.

Cobble: A stone or raw material that has washed down a river or stream or has been quarried. Formed in various sizes and generally covered with a rough outer cortex.

Biface: A piece of stone that has been flaked or carved on both sides.

Core: The central part of the cobble which will be flaked and shaped to make the stone tool.

Flake: A thin, sometimes broad and sharp piece of stone chipped from a larger biface or core.

Instructions

You will work with your bar of soap (or “Cobble”) to carefully remove flakes, turning it first into a biface and then a projectile point. Look at the two projectile point images in this activity sheet for inspiration!

1. Start your carving by drawing a design on the soap with a marker or just scratching into the surface with your knife. Then you can start cutting.
2. Once you cut the rough shape of your design, you can use a plastic spoon, fork or popsicle stick to smooth out, round out, or make further details on your creation.

Share pictures of your completed project with us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram with the hashtag #AtHomeWithHoCoRec



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