

CP 3-0031

Plainville, Kansas  
November 29, 1971

Mr. Don Crabtree  
Kimberle Falls, Idaho

Dear Sir:

Mrs. Bernice Johnston, Tucson, Arizona, has recommended you as one who might be able to satisfy my curiosity regarding Indian flint items.

On January 1, 1968, I accidentally stumbled onto an old Indian campsite and in the succeeding two years picked up about a bushel basket of items--arrowheads, srrapers, knives, awls and implements--all flint. I became very much interested in this business and have since found other sites and more items.

My question is: How did the Indians chip or flake the flint to make these items? Many "authorities" have answered that question with the one statement: "They flaked by pressure and percussion." I have pressured and percussed until my hands were bleeding, but never can I produce a bigger flake than one about 1/4 inch long. I have used hammerstones, pointed green bone, antlers, and even steel punches, ice picks and screwdrivers, but the chips always come out the same. My angle of percussion makes no difference in the size of the chip. Some of my 4-inch implements have flakes completely across the face of the implement. Others have the flakes meeting in the center.

If you have the time, can you please spell the procedure out for me, so I can understand it. Also why do not hard flint items have a saleable market. I see lots of ads for soft goods, but never flint items.

Any consideration you can give this request will be appreciated. Thanks in advance. Sincerely. T. C. ALLEN

CP 1.2.570  
T. C. Allen