

ANCIENT PROJECTILE POINTS

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Film #10-101

SUBJECT AREA: Human origins, cultures of people, primitive technology, beginning archaeology, introductory anthropology
GRADE LEVEL: High School, College, University, Adult
LENGTH: 16mm color/sound - 28 minutes

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Directed by: DR. EARL H. SWANSON, JR.,
with the assistance of the
NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
PURCHASE PRICE: \$325.00 - **RENTAL PRICE:** \$25.00

SYNOPSIS

Starting about 11,000 years ago, Early Man developed highly refined pressure flaking techniques which he used in making uniquely designed projectile points. Don Crabtree, Research Associate, Idaho State University Museum, duplicates these techniques with the use of a variety of pressure flaking tools. We see the manufacture of a corner notched point and how it compares to an aboriginal specimen. Using collateral flaking techniques, he duplicates a Birch Creek point and compares it to a point found at one of the Birch Creek sites. Both slow motion and normal speed photography are used to show parallel diagonal flaking techniques. Starting with a large flake struck from an obsidian cobble, Crabtree pre-forms the material and then replicates a cast of an Alberta point. A grouping of aboriginal projectile points is then shown. It is believed that points of this type are related to the rapid expansion of human population in the New World.

VOCABULARY

1. Collateral flaking
2. Diagonal parallel flaking
3. Lanceolate
4. Whet stone
5. Corner notched point

INTRODUCING THE FILM

Student Preparation - Survey student interest, knowledge and comprehension of lithic technology by:

1. Examination of replicas depicting both collateral and diagonal pressure flaking techniques.
2. Discuss the high level of achievement in lithic technology by Early Man at the end of a two million

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year era in which man occupied most of the known world.

3. Interpret the similarities in form produced by different techniques and differences of style produced by the same techniques.

CONCEPTS

1. Starting about 11,000 years ago, pressure flaking techniques reached a high degree of refinement, an expression of sophisticated toolmaking concepts and fine technical execution.
2. Rocks with the consistency of glass, such as obsidian and ignimbrite required less force to flake than denser, more granular materials. They were therefore widely used where available for manufacturing projectile points. Other lithic materials used were opal, petrified wood, and chalcedony, so that variations in material were often geographic in origin.
3. During the period of between 5 and 11 thousand years ago, Early Man perfected his flintknapping skills with the use of a variety of tools such as antler, bone, wood and metal. He even developed composite tools that increased his accuracy.
4. The high degree of refinement of projectile points manufactured between 5 and 11 thousand years ago represented the last phase of a life way that existed for over two million years.

QUESTIONS

1. What is the purpose of bi-facial flaking of a projectile point?
2. What function does notching serve?
3. What are the differences in technique between collateral and parallel flaking?



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