

- Parallel: 0 to 180 degrees.
- Parallel Flaking: The last of several stages of pressure retouch. Artifact surface must be regular and uniform before precision parallel flaking can be accomplished. The flakes detached resemble micro-bladelets and are removed in sequence at right angles from the lateral edges.
- Patina: An alteration of the surface by molecular or chemical change and not to be confused with sand blasting.
- Percussion Flaking: A method of striking with a percussor to detach flakes or blades from a core or mass. Percussion flaking includes varied techniques to remove flakes by either impact, collision or concussion.
- Percussor: An implement used for striking. Includes hammers, hammerstones or billets.
- Permutation. Interchange. To change one thing for another.
- Perpendicular to Plane of Fracture: Axis of longitudinal median line of flake and flake scar.
- Phylogeny: The line, or lines, of direct descent in a given group.
- Picks: Long narrow, thick, core tools. Prominent keel on dorsal side and plano on ventral side. Pointed one one or both ends.
- Plane of Cleavage: The splitting, or tendency to split, along planes determined by crystal structure, or by bedding planes in sedimentary rocks. Parallel planes of weakness within the structure which destroy the homogeneity of the material.
- Plane of Fracture: The surface on the ventral side of the flake bearing the positive scar of the bulb of force; the negative scar being on the core or stone tool.
- Plano Convex: Flat on ventral surface - curved on dorsal surface. Common to unifacial artifacts.
- Platform: Pre = prefix denoting priority, first. Form, from the Latin "forma" = to shape. Preforming denotes the first shaping. Preform is an unfinished, unused form of the proposed artifact. It is larger than, and without the refinement of, the completed tool. It is thick, with deep bulbar scars, has irregular edges, and no means of hafting. Generally made by direct percussion. Not to be confused with a blank.
- Precision Thinning: A precision method of thinning by which the worker controls the direction and termination of the flakes at the median line of the artifact by applying either the parallel or collateral flaking technique. Flakes are intentionally terminated in a hinge or step fracture at the median line to allow flakes detached from the opposite margin to meet and intersect these fractures.

- Pressure Flaking: Process of forming and sharpening stone by removing surplus material - in the form of flakes - from the artifact by pressing force rather than by percussion. There are various individual techniques of pressure flaking.
- Primary Retouch: Removal of irregularities on the artifact by the pressure technique to make the piece ready for the second retouch.
- Primitive: Pertaining to the beginning or origin, or to early times. Original, first, primary, primordial.
- Prismatic Blade: Long narrow, specialized flake with parallel sides. Generally triangulate or trapezoidal in section and bearing two or three prism-like facets on the dorsal side. Associated with blades removed from a Polyhedral core.
- Projectile Point: Spear, dart, or arrowpoint.
- Promontory: See "Isolated Platform".
- Pseudo Tools: See "Naturefacts".
- Punch: An intermediate tool of antler, bone, wood, metal or stone used in the percussion technique.
- Punch Technique: A method of applying percussion for to an intermediate tool (punch).