



## Flint Knapping, Step by Step

For thousands of years, Native Americans made projectile points through the process of flint knapping. Starting with a large, raw stone known as a core, tools made of stone, bone, and antler were used to remove flakes from the stone until a thin, sharp arrowhead, spear point, or knife blade took shape. The images below show the steps involved in flint knapping.



**1**  
STEP ONE: A hammerstone is used to strike the core to remove large flakes. This is known as percussion flaking.



**2**  
STEP TWO: A large bone tool is also used to remove large pieces of stone through percussion flaking.



**3**  
STEP THREE: As the core gets smaller, a piece of antler is used to keep striking the stone to flatten it out.



**4**  
STEP FOUR: A sharp antler is used to apply direct pressure to remove more flakes. This is called pressure flaking.



**5**  
STEP FIVE: An even smaller antler with a fine tip is used to continue the process of pressure flaking.



**6**  
STEP SIX: The sharp tip of the antler is used to create the final shape of the point.



**7**  
The finished product! Points of this size were used as spear tips or knife blades.



**8**  
These are the flakes of stone left over after the point was completed. Many of these are very sharp and were used themselves as cutting tools.



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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

DIRECTIONS: Read the text on the previous page, then answer the following questions in complete sentences. Write your answers on the lines provided.

1. What do you call the process of making a projectile point?

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2. What are three materials used to make tools that remove flakes from the core?

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3. What is it called when flakes are made by striking the core?

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4. What is it called when direct pressure is applied to shape the stone?

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5. What are two ways that large points like the one in photo #7 were used?

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6. How could the flakes left over from flint knapping be used by the Indians?

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