
Key Words

Week 10: Lithic Analysis

Key Words: Peregrine (Chapter 9): “Lithic Analysis”

1. What are lithics made from?
 - a. Lithics
 - b. Ground stone
 - c. Chipped stone
 - d. Flakes versus core
 - e. Flint, chert, obsidian, chalcedony, opalized wood
 - f. Nodules
 - g. Heat treatment (350-500 degrees for 30 to 50 hours)
2. How are chipped stone tools made?
 - a. Percussion flaking
 - b. Hard hammer technique
 - c. Soft hammer technique
 - d. Pressure flaking
 - e. Attributes: Cortex, flake scar, striking platform, bulb of percussion
 - f. Dorsal (exterior) versus ventral (interior) faces of blade or flake
 - g. Secondary flakes (reduction flakes)
 - h. Tertiary flakes (production flakes)
 - i. Pressure flakes (retouching flakes)
 - j. Notching flakes (hafting notches)
3. What types of chipped stone tools are there?
 - a. Projectile points
 - b. Hafting
 - c. Flake tools
 - d. Backed flakes (decortication flakes)
 - e. Prepared core and blade
 - f. Scrapers
 - g. Burins
4. What types of ground stone tools are there?
 - a. Axes: Full-grooved, Three-quarter grooved, Ungrooved or Celt
 - b. Adzes versus Celts
 - c. Atl-atl weights
5. How do archaeologists analyze lithics?
 - a. Formal analysis (technical description)
 - b. Notching style
 - c. Typology
 - d. Use-wear analysis
 - e. Refitting studies (rebuilding a nodule from struck flakes)

- f. Metric analyses
 - g. Patterns: Arcuate (bow-sided), Rectilinear (straight edged), Stemmed, Notched Blade
 - h. Styles: 1. Lanceolate, 2. Ovate, 3. Trianguloid, 4. Triangular, 5. Pentagonal, 6. Semi-Stemmed, 7. Full stemmed, 8. Side-notched, 9. Corner or bias, 10. Basal notched, 11. Neck-and-Yoke
 - i. Traits: Thickness, maximum length, maximum width...etc.
- 6. What can archaeologists learn from lithic analyses?
 - a. Dating archaeological deposits
 - b. Craft specialization
 - c. Trade and exchange
 - d. Production processes
 - e. Social organization (settlement mobility and social differentiation)
 - f. Nomadic versus sedentary peoples
 - g. Prepared Core Technology and Curation (retouch)
- 7. Summary
 - a. Formal Analyses
 - b. Use-wear Analysis
 - c. Refitting Studies
 - d. Metrical Analysis
 - e. Typology, Chronology, Social Organization, Thought Processes

Video: Bruce Bradley's "Flintknapping" video. Prepare an online Journal entry regarding the process of lithic reduction presented.
