

Flintknapping Assignment

Viewed in class: Thursday, March 1

Due: Thursday, March 8 (in class)

Following our viewing of 'Flintknapping' by Dr. Bruce Bradley we will break into small groups and you may compare notes in order to discuss possible answers to the following questions.

Questions

1. What are the qualities of obsidian that allowed Bruce Bradley to make the stone tools?
2. What angle of percussion is most critical to the production of stone tools? Why is this angle critical to producing stone tools?
3. What specific tools were used by Bruce Bradley to produce the various flint tools in his demonstration? Name two specific tools, and how and why each tool was used for a specific stone tool reduction process.
4. Why did Bradley dull the edges of those flakes produced prior to working them into tools? What effect does this have on the stone tool reduction process?
5. Why might an antler tine be used — over the use of a stone tool — in flaking flint tools? What properties does the antler lend to the reduction process?
6. Why might it be necessary to flake in two different directions along the edge of a piece of obsidian? What value does edge preparation hold in the production of stone tools?
7. How did Bradley go about thinning the center and base of the projectile point he was working? What specifically did he do in order to achieve a thinner cross section for the tool in question?
8. How many different types of tools did Bruce Bradley produce from the single piece of material that he began with in his demonstration? Name at least three of those tools produced!
9. What procedure and tool was used by Bradley in order to notch the base of the projectile point? What precautions or principles were used in order to assure that the notches were successfully completed?
10. Briefly describe the following flintknapping methods: (a) hard-hammer percussion, (b) soft-hammer percussion, (c) indirect percussion, and (d) pressure flaking.

Your answers should be in sentence format and provide as complete an answer as possible. Your completed assignment must be typed up and handed in as an individual submission on the due date in class.