



## What's The Point? - Spearpoint Word Search - Teacher's Sheet

Thirteen different words make the Hardin Barbed spear point on this page. These words describe the kind of information archaeologists can learn about stone tools and the people who made them by studying these artifacts.

Find the words and circle them on the drawing:  
age art craft material mobility skill source  
style talent technique technology trade use

Now put them in the right place in the essay below to read more about these fascinating objects!

## What's The Point?

When people apply their knowledge to solve practical problems, that's t e c h n o l o g y. Tools help people adapt to their natural and cultural surroundings.

The spear point has deep corner notches that form the stem (its base). The much longer blade has barbs that extend down from the shoulder. This is the point's **s t y l e** . And because this changes over time, this can provide clues to a point's **a g e** .

Making a spear point isn't easy. A flintknapper must understand a rock's properties, understand

the basic principles of physics, and know how to use the proper knapping tools. Notching a point is particularly hard to do. It takes **t a l e n t** and **s k i l l**.

Flake scar patterns on a spear point's surface reflect a knapper's manufacturing technique.

**U s e** dulls a spear point's edges. Resharpener makes the edges as good as new, but it often changes the tool's shape.

The kind of **m a t e r i a l** – the type of rock – from which a point is made reflects what a group considers “beautiful.” It also can shed light on ancient economies and lifestyles. Flintknappers in farming villages traveled short distances to a good local rock **s o u r c e** . They got prized rocks from far away places through **t r a d e** . Distance was no problem for nomadic peoples, however. Their **m o b i l i t y** meant they always traveled far.

A flintknapper elevates his or her **c r a f t** to an **a r t** when material, technique, talent, and skill combine to produce an object of beauty, precision, and function.