

Sedimentary Rocks:

A Link to Native American Tools



Overview

The intricate designs and careful planning of tools created by indigenous people, have fascinated us for years, as they have evolved over time with greater precision of materials made from Earth. Within this study of sedimentary rocks, students will discover what types of rocks were used to create “arrowheads,” used by Native Americans and what other resources, such as fossil fuels, were used by the indigenous people . Students will also design and create their own arrowhead, using model clay.

Education Standards

TEKS 5.7A

Formation of Rocks and Fossil Fuels. Explore the processes that led to the formation of sedimentary rocks and fossil fuels.

Materials Needed

Where does flint come from? PDF

What kind of Arrowhead will you design? PDF

What are fossil fuels? PDF

Basic Knapping Video: [Knapping Video](#)



Modeling clay

Plastic knives (2 per partner)

Paper plates for work area

Vocabulary

Sedimentary rocks

Rock formation

Weathering

Erosion

Deposition

Compaction

Cementation

Knapping

Student Objectives

- Students will have an understanding of how sedimentary rocks and fossil fuels were formed and how they were used with Native Americans.
- Students will learn that rocks are a natural resource and can be used to make tools.
- Students will discover which rocks were used for knapping and creating an “arrowhead”.
- Students will identify some of the designs of arrowheads and will learn what they were used for.
- Students will design and create their own arrowhead using model clay.

Activity

1. Begin the lesson by showing a flint rock and asking the students what are some properties of the rock being shown. (students will mention the colors, layers, texture)

2. Teacher will explain that flint is found in the layers of sedimentary rock. TW handout out the [Where Does Flint Come From? PDF](#). and [What Are Fossil Fuels? PDF](#)
3. Students will read it with an elbow partner. **Think, Pair, Share:** after reading, Partner A will share where flint rock can be found and how the Native Americans used it. And Partner B will explain what fossil fuels are and list 3 main fuels used by the Native Americans.
4. Students will watch the basic knapping video to see how sedimentary rocks were busted open and how the flint rock was chipped off to make flakes, which would later be used to make tools.
5. After video, teacher will discuss how the Native Americans used flint to make arrowheads. TW handout the [What Kind of Arrowhead Would You Design? PDF](#). Students will read it with their elbow partner and will have an opportunity to choose a design that they like.
6. Students will use modeling clay to create their own arrowhead designs. Students will receive a 1” piece of modeling clay and a plastic knife to carve design into. Students may place their design onto an index card and label it.

Extension

Students can research their chosen design and discover what it was used for...for example: Was it used for hunting, skinning animals, or as a weapon?

