

## Where does Flint Come from?

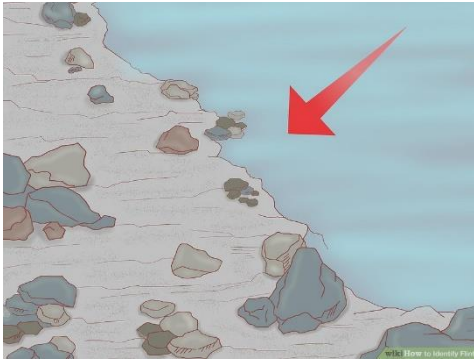
Flint rock is formed within the layers of sedimentary rocks.

It might seem like flint is difficult to find, but you generally just need to know where to look. In some areas, like the Ozarks of Missouri, you can find chert lying all over the ground. That is because flint and chert are hard, durable rocks that are so resistant to weathering they remain intact long after the surrounding rocks have weathered away into the soil.

You can search along the freshwater shores or riverbeds.

Flint is very durable and resistant to chemicals, so it often collects in the remaining soils as surrounding carbonate rocks erode.

While rocks like limestone erode and fine soil is carried downstream, small pebble deposits of flint and chert collect along the shores.



Native Americans found this rock to be useful to make their tools.

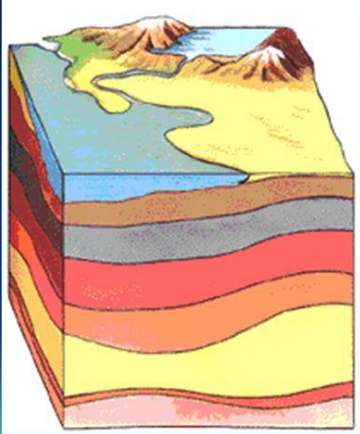


Flint was an ideal choice for creating tools and weapons. Flint can be made to form a blade that is actually sharper than steel.<sup>[5]</sup> If you find an arrowhead or sharp rock near an old tribal ground, you found some flint.

It's useful to know how sedimentary rocks were formed and where to find this special kind of rock, called flint.

## Sedimentary Rocks

- Over many years, little pieces of our earth are broken down and worn away by wind and water.
- These little bits of our earth are washed downstream where they settle to the bottom of the rivers, lakes, and oceans.
- These layers are pressed down more and more through time, until the bottom layers slowly turn into rock.



The diagram shows a cross-section of the Earth's crust. At the top, a landscape with mountains and a river is shown. Below the surface, layers of sediment are depicted in various colors (yellow, orange, red, grey, blue). The layers are shown being compressed and tilted, illustrating the process of sedimentation and lithification over time.

The Native Americans found larger sedimentary rocks that contained several pieces of flint. They would bust them open and use the flint inside.



### Did you know?

You can control the way flint splits easier than other rocks, which is another reason why the Native American people used flint to shape tools and weapons. Sometimes flint may have edges that seem to have been chipped away or have a point, indicating they have been used as a tool.