

STONE TECHNOLOGY



"Most of the material evidence for human behavior for the bulk of our time on earth - amounts to pieces of worked stone."

Harold Dibble

Demonstrating Stone Tool Manufacture at Flint Ridge, May 1996



Flint Ridge Knap-in - Mason's Campground - Brownsville, Ohio

Heat Treating Chert

Heat treating chert is a technique used to render lithic material easier to work and in some cases more colorful. Today's approach to heat altering lithics is by using a pottery kiln. According to other knappers, this is the way to go, but I haven't seen many aboriginal pottery kilns from the Archaic Period. The following experimental system may have been utilized by prehistoric peoples to alter the properties of their lithic materials.

Materials Needed

1. A lens shaped earthen pit
2. Quartz sand
3. 60lb of charcoal briquettes and/ or wood kindling
4. Chert blanks - do not use huge chunky pieces!