

LIVING ARCHAEOLOGY WEEKEND

TOOLS AND WEAPONS VOCABULARY

Arrowhead – the small (generally less than 2.5 inches) stone, bone, or metal tip of an arrow

Atlatl (Spearthrower) – a hand-held bone or wood tool used to propel a spear with considerable thrust and distance

Billet – a soft antler, bone, or wood tool used by a **knapper** when making a **chipped-stone tool**

Chert (Flint) – a fine-grained, brittle rock that can be shaped into tools

Chipped-stone tool – any tool made by striking a piece of brittle raw material, like **chert**, into a desired shape

Core – a piece of unmodified raw material, like **chert**, from which a **knapper** makes a chipped-stone tool

Debitage – the fragments of stone (**flakes** and **debris**) left-over after making a **chipped-stone tool**

Flakes – flat-shaped **debitage**

Flintknapping (Knapping) – the process of making a **chipped-stone tool** from brittle rock, like **chert**, by striking the raw material

Grinding stones – hand-held stone tools in a variety of shapes (like conical mortars-pestles and flat manos-metates) that Native Americans used to grind-up plant foods

Ground-stone tool – any tool shaped by **pecking** and grinding a piece of non-brittle raw material, like sandstone or limestone, into a desired shape

Hafted – a tool that is attached (with sinew or glue) to a handle or shaft

Hammer (Hammerstone) – a hard stone tool used by a **knapper** in making a **chipped-stone tool**

Knapper – a person who manufactures a **chipped-stone tool**

Knife – a sharp, hand-held or **hafted chipped-stone tool** used for cutting and slicing

Lithics –artifacts made of stone, such as **arrowheads** and **grinding stones**

Pecking – a way of making **ground-stone tools** by striking the stone with blows from a stone **hammer**

Percussion flaking – a way of making **chipped-stone tools** by striking the stone with blows from a stone **hammer** or an antler, bone, or wood **billet**

Pressure flaking – a way of making **chipped-stone tools** by removing material through the application of pressure with a bone or antler knapping tool. Usually the final step in shaping a **projectile point**.

Projectile point – any object **hafted** to a pole, stick, shaft, dart, or spear of some kind, fashioned for use as a weapon. All arrowheads are projectile points, but not all projectile points are arrowheads. Some projectile points tipped spears, which were used with an **atlatl** before the bow and arrow were invented.

Scraper – a sharp, hand-held or **hafted chipped-stone tool** used for scraping hides

Spear point – a medium-sized to large stone, bone, or metal tip of a spear

CERAMIC VOCABULARY

Ceramics (Pottery) – baked, fire-hardened clay objects like pots and figurines

Sherd – a broken piece of a **ceramic** pot or vessel

Temper – sand, stone, shell, clay, or plant fibers added to clay to prevent **ceramics** from shrinking or cracking during firing

BASKETS AND TEXTILES VOCABULARY

Canebrake – a large, thick stand of river cane

Cordage – a thread or string made by twisting two or more strands of plant fibers together

Diagonal Weave – a method of weaving in which the elements interweave with themselves

Double woven Basket – a basket that is woven to be two layers thick

Plain Weave – a method of weaving that is done as over one, under one

Rivercane – one of the common names used for *Arundinaria Gigantea*, a species of bamboo native to the U.S. The others are *Arundinaria Tecta* (Swamp Cane, Switch Cane) and *Arundinaria Appalachia* (Hill Cane, Mountain Cane).

Textiles – objects like clothing, bags, blankets, sleeping mats, and nets that are made of woven plant material (leaves, stems, stalks bark)

Twilling – a method of making baskets and **textiles** that produces parallel diagonal lines

Twining – a method of making baskets and **textiles** that involves twisting the plant fibers and produces parallel horizontal lines

Warp – the horizontal or lengthwise threads or cords of a basket or **textile**

Weaving – a method of making baskets and **textiles** that involves winding the plant fibers in-and-out

Weft (Woof) – the vertical or crosswise threads or cords of a basket or **textile**

BLOWGUN VOCABULARY

Blowgun – a tube made of **rivercane** or similar hollow plant that native peoples used to hunt small game such as rabbits, squirrels, and birds

Dart – the projectile that is shot from the **blowgun**

Fletching – the material on the end of the **dart** (**thistle**, feathers, cotton, and animal furs) that clogs up the bore of the **blowgun**. It allows pressure to build up, causing the **dart** to shoot out. Fletching also stabilizes the **dart** in flight.

Rivercane – (see **BASKETS AND TEXTILES VOCABULARY**). This is the premier material for making **blowguns**.

Shaft – the stick that the **fletching** is applied to. Traditional shafts were locust, hickory, oak, and **rivercane**.

Thistle – a thorny weed with purple flowers that grows along roadsides today. Thistle (many different species were used) is the most recognized type of **fletching**.

Quiver – a holder for **blowgun darts**. Although no one has recovered any archaeological examples, the technology of the time suggests native peoples would have made them from bark, gourds, rawhide, or buckskin.

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GENERAL VOCABULARY

Agriculture – the intensive production of **domesticated** plant and animal foods on a large scale with complex tools and methods

Archaeology – the study of past human cultures based on the analysis of **artifacts** and **sites**

Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) – a federal law that protects the remains of ancient and historic cultures on Federal and Indian lands, making it illegal to excavate, remove, damage, or alter archaeological resources without a permit

Artifact – any object made or used by humans, such as tools, containers, and ornaments

Blow gun – a tube-shaped bone or wood tool used to propel a small dart

Break – to soften a hide

Collecting – the legal and ethical recovery of **artifacts** by people other than archaeologists

Context – the three-dimensional location of an artifact, and its spatial relationship to other artifacts

Corn meal – made by crushing and grinding dried corn, this plant food was an important part of both Native American and early pioneer diets

Domesticate – human control of the breeding process so that plants and animals develop traits (like large seed size and increased milk production), making them more useful to humans (for food, transportation, and the like)

Earth oven – a cooking pit in the ground lined with heated rocks and covered with soil

Eastern Agricultural Complex – a set of eight seed-producing plants (sunflower, sumpweed or marshelder, goosefoot or lambsquarter, maygrass, erect knotweed, giant ragweed, amaranth, and little barley) that formed the basis of early **horticulture** in eastern North America beginning 5,000 years ago

Feature – a soil anomaly produced by a past human activity, such as an earth oven, hearth, or post mold

Fleshing – to remove the flesh and fat from a hide

Freshwater mussel – a common mollusk found in Kentucky's rivers. Native peoples used the shells of this animal as spoons, and in the manufacture pottery and ornaments, like beads and pendants.

Hearth – (1) a place where humans **domesticated** plants and animals; (2) the remains of an ancient campfire; (3) the area in front of a historic fireplace, often used for cooking

Historic – the time after the invention or adoption of writing

Hominy hole (Bedrock mortar) – cylindrical holes in sandstone and limestone rocks that Native Americans may have used to grind nuts or other plant foods

Horticulture – the production of **domesticated** plant foods on a small scale with simple tools and methods

Kentucky Antiquities Act – a state law that protects the remains of ancient and historic cultures on state, county, and city property, making it illegal to excavate, remove, damage, or alter archaeological resources without a permit

Looting (pot hunting) – the illegal or unethical destruction of archaeological resources to obtain artifacts like **arrowheads** and **ceramics** for personal use or for sale

Maize – a Spanish word for **corn** derived from a native word *mahis*

Mill stone – circular stones, made of tough, fine grained like sandstone, used one on top of the other for grinding wheat or other grains. A mill stone's flat surface has deep grooves that work to grind the grain into small pieces and also push the ground flour or meal out from the stones.

National Register of Historic Places – the official list of our country's most significant historic, architectural, and archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects, and the ones deemed most worthy of preservation. The Red River Gorge is on this list.

Parched corn – the process of drying and cooking corn that was used by Native Americans and early pioneers to make corn last longer

Petroglyph – **rock art** images that have been carved, pounded, incised, or ground into a stone

Pictograph – **rock art** images that have been painted or drawn on stone

Post mold – a soil stain created when the underground portion of a house post or fence post decomposes

Prehistoric – the time period before the invention or adoption of writing

Preservation – a program or plan to prevent damage or destruction of an archaeological site

Rock art – a design or picture created on a rock surface, including **petroglyphs** and **pictographs**

Rock shelter – a recessed area under a rock overhang that people used for a variety of reasons

Site – a place with material evidence of past human activity

Stratigraphy – the layering of deposits in archaeological **sites**

Tanning – the process of cleaning and softening an animal hide

Venison – deer meat