Atlatls, or Spearthrowers: Studying Ancient Weapons



John C. Whittaker, Grinnell College

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Replicas of prehistoric and ethnographic atlatls, plus a couple of modern forms

Throwing a 'dart' with an atlat Note lever action







































French Upper Paleolithic replicas by Cyril Huc, Pascal Chaveaux and Florent Rivere



Clovis point knapped by M. Eren, hafted by J. Whittaker





Peruvian Moche pot; Mexican codex

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Aztec Atlatl, British Museum



Australian Spearthrower types



Basketmaker Caves in the Prayer Rock district



Basketmaker rock art, Utah. Photo by C. Larue



Broken Roof Cave atlatl replica by D. Pettigrew





Atlatl dart foreshafts, Sand Dune Cave. Photo courtesy Museum of Northern Arizona





Basketmaker atlatl dart points

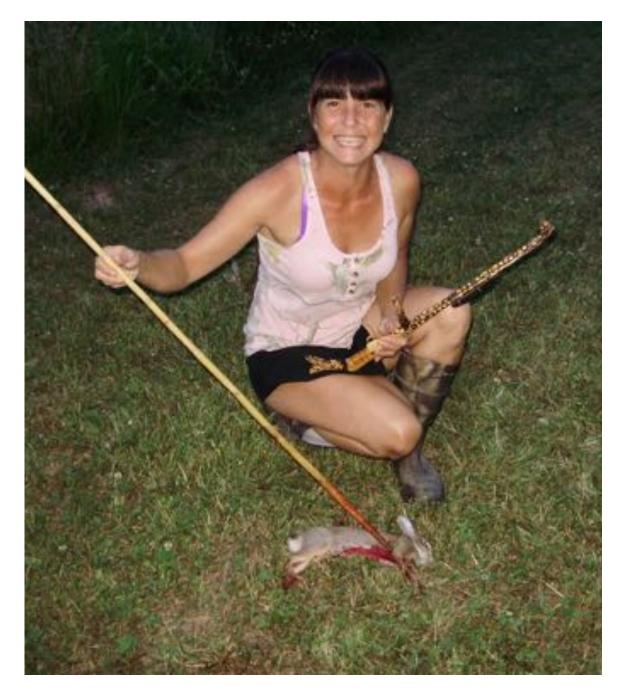


Later Puebloan arrow points



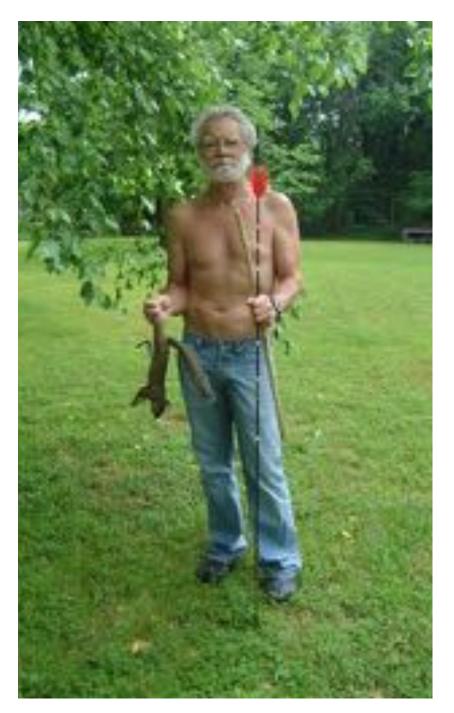
Modern sport: International Standard Accuracy Competition





Small game success.

Photos courtesy Dawn Wagner, Ray Madden

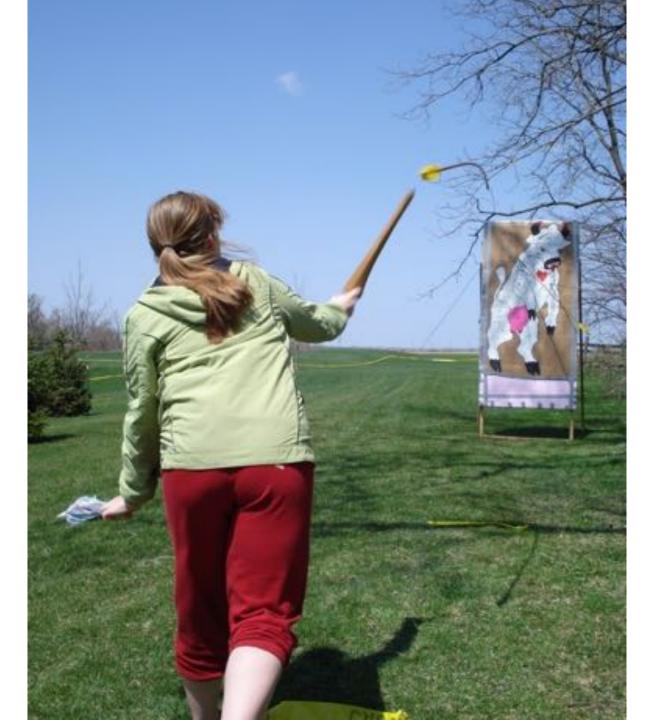


Observing flight with slow-motion video, and measuring velocity with



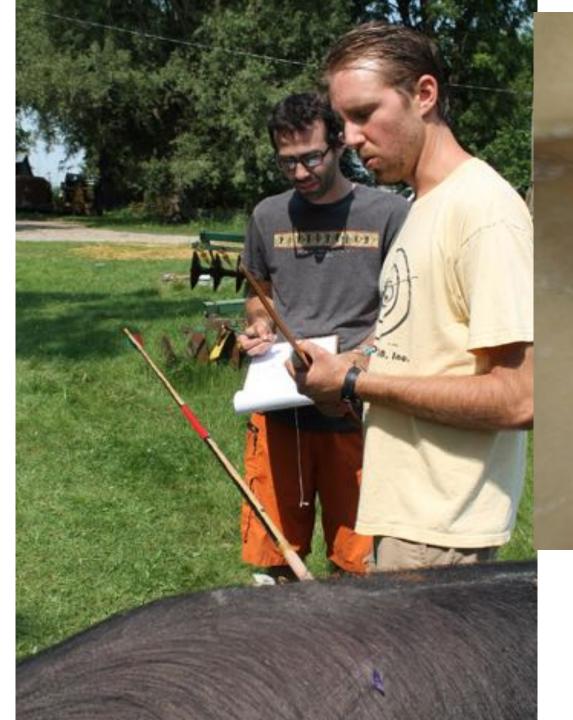
Bow = Spring

Atlatl = Lever











Stone point penetration – hog, and scapula

Pettigrew, Whittaker, Garnett, and Hashman 2015 How Atlatl Darts Behave: Beveled Points and the Relevance of Controlled Experiments. *American Antiquity* 80(3): 590-601.





The WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION. Inc.

http://waa.basketmakeratlatl.com/

