

Atlatls, or Spearthrowers: Studying Ancient Weapons



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

Throwing a 'dart' with an atlatl Note lever action





Black dart rear a 4-10



Black dart rear a 4-11



Black dart rear a 4-12



Black dart rear a 4-13



Black dart rear a 4-14



Black dart rear a 4-15



Black dart rear a 4-16



Black dart rear a 4-17



Black dart rear a 4-18



Black dart rear a 4-19



Black dart rear a 4-20



Black dart rear a 4-21



Black dart rear a 4-22



Black dart rear a 4-23



Black dart rear a 4-24



Black dart rear a 4-26



Black dart rear a 4-28



Black dart rear a 5-0

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

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/>



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