## 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 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

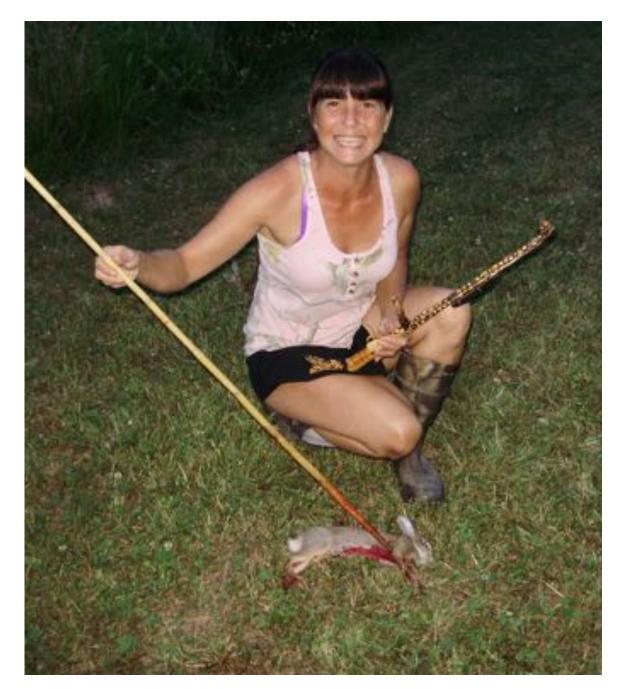


#### Later Puebloan arrow points



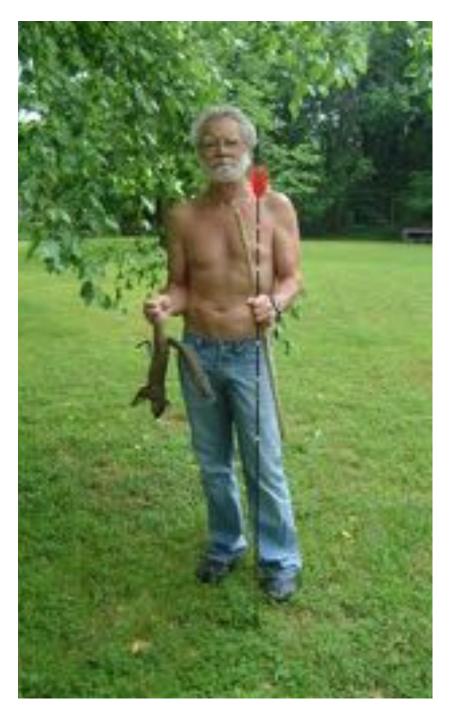
Modern sport: International Standard Accuracy Competition





Small game success.

Photos courtesy Dawn Wagner, Ray Madden

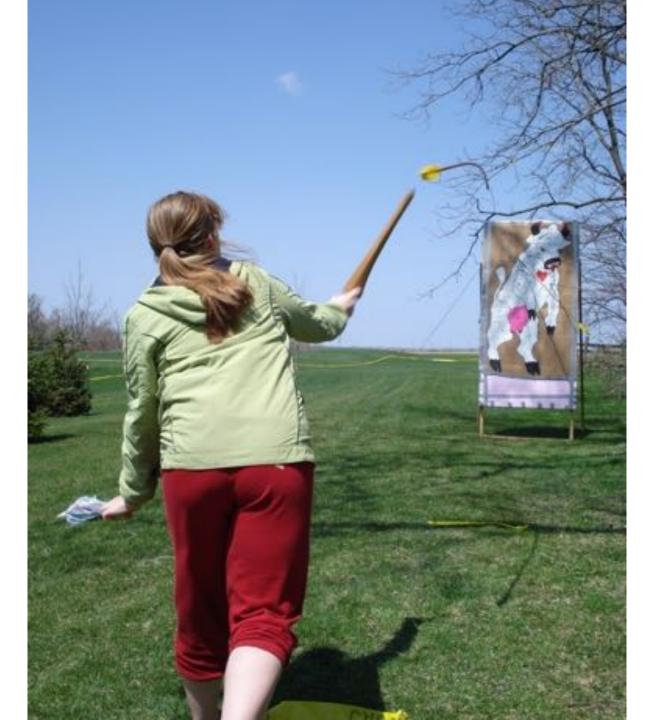


Observing flight with slow-motion video, and measuring velocity with



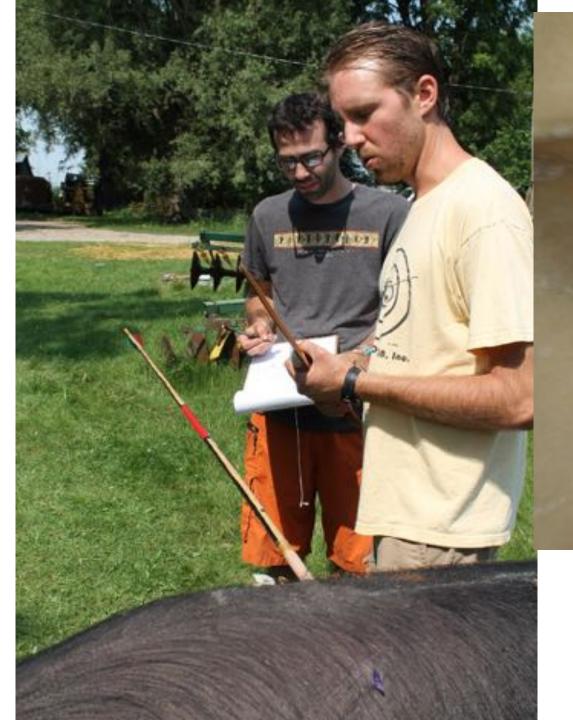
Bow = Spring

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/

