

A Spear Point

Dr. E.L. Boxwood was visiting a friend. He showed her a spear point, or arrowhead, he found a long time ago. He can't remember where.



What information can Dr. Boxwood get from this spear point? What does it tell archeologists about the people who made and used it? For instance, can you tell what kind of animals they hunted with it?

Evidence-based Answer Key

Archeologists could tell that the point was a spear point rather than an arrow point because arrow points are much smaller. They can identify the type of rock that people used to make it. This point is made from chert. They can compare it to other spear points found in archeological contexts to deduce its type. This one is a White River Side Notched point. Based on its similarities to other points, archeologists know that it is an Archaic Period spear point that dates between 7,000 - 6,000 BP. But without contextual information archeologists can learn little about the people who made and used it.

