

Stone tools

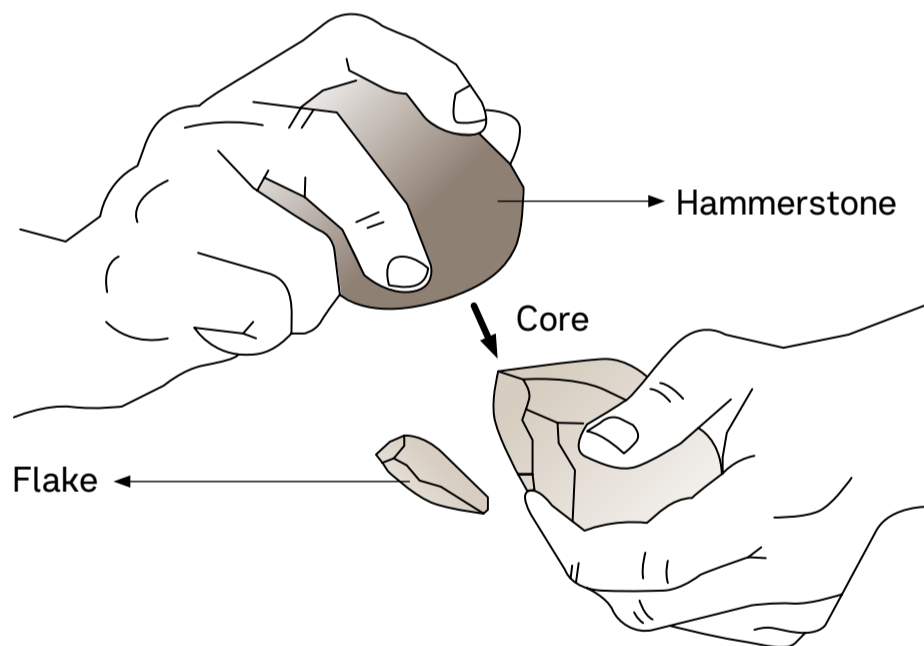
Stone tools are the most common evidence of Aboriginal peoples' activities.

Aboriginal people quarried stone from outcrops or collected it. They selected the best stone for the tool, and stone was often carried long distances or traded.

The best type of stone for making tools is fine grained silcrete, quartzite and greenstone.





The stone was often carried from the quarry to a camping site. Cores and flakes are often found in knapping areas, where someone has manufactured the stone tool.

Stone tools can provide important information about the past, scientific studies look at use wear patterns and residue to determine how the stone tool was used.



Stone tools were made by hitting a piece of stone, called a core, with a 'hammerstone'. This would remove a sharp fragment of stone called a flake. Both cores and flakes could be used as stone tools.

Stone tools were used for:

-  Shaping wood and bone
-  Spear tips
-  Scraping hides
-  Cutting food and fibres

Stone tool examples



Axes were often made from greenstone and basalt while coarse grained material was used for hammerstones and grinding stones.



Fine grained lithic material like silcrete and quartzite was often flaked in to tools and used for cutting and scraping.

'Greenstone was traded as far as South Australia and Queensland, either as the raw material stone block or the finished axe.'

Allan Wandin - Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Elder