

Making flint tools



Comprehension

Making flint tools

Early in the morning, I wandered over the chalky hillside, looking for rough lumps of flint called nodules. I found some of them more or less on the surface, and I dug some out of the ground with an antler.

When I had picked up a few, I sat down on a nearby log and put a thick piece of animal hide over my leg. Then I rested a nodule on the hide, and began bashing it with another stone. As the flint was struck, it split into smaller pieces. I touched the edges of the flint pieces with my finger. I wanted the sharp ones.

I chipped away at the flints all day, but I hardly noticed the time. I paid so much attention to what I was doing, that the hours just flew past. Every time I got a nice sharp edge, I smiled in triumph.

Over the next few days, I made my precious flints into tools. One thin flint with a very clean edge was perfect for a knife. I stored it away carefully so that next time I hunted an animal, I would be able to cut the skin away.

I also made axes and spears by shaping flints. One day I met someone who needed these things. He had made birch bark bags that were stronger than the ones I made. So I traded some flint tools for a bark bag, and we both ended up with what we needed.

Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write the sentence in which you found the word 'chalky'.

b From that sentence, suggest what 'chalky' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'chalky'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'chalky'.

e Draw a small picture showing what you think 'chalky' means.

Try this for other words, too. 

Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: bashing	hitting

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.

Every time I got a nice sharp edge, I smiled in triumph.

I bashed lumps of flint together so bits would break off.

One day I traded some flint tools I had made for a birch bark bag.

I also made axes and spears.

One thin flint with a very clean edge was perfect for a knife.

I wandered over the hillside looking for flint nodules.

Get to the facts

1 What are the rough lumps of flint called?

2 Where did the person in the story sit down?

3 What did he bash the nodule with?

4 What did he make the flints into?

5 What did he trade some flint tools for?

Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.

Stolen flints

It was time to go hunting. I had my spears and axe ready. Now I just needed my flint knife for skinning any animals I might catch on the trip. I opened the bag where I kept it, but the knife was nowhere to be seen... (now complete the

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Finding key words:

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym).

For example:

Key word – bashing Synonym – hitting

Sequencing:

Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense:

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- 1 What are the rough lumps of flint called?
- 2 Where did the person in the story sit down?
- 3 What did he bash the nodules with?
- 4 What did he make the flints into?
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Make a story...

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