Native American Projectile Points of the Great Basin
A Beginner's Identification Guide

Prototype Summary

People have long been fascinated by projectile points — artifacts of our Native American ancestors dating back to the late Paleolithic period. Research on projectile points is quite vast and exhaustive — focusing on many geographical locations, cultures and time periods — which is why I chose to focus on one region – the Great Basin. The purpose of this brief course is to teach learners how to identify projectile points from this area using the markers of shape, material, flaking patterns and archaeological period.

Target Audience

- Adults of all ages who are either collectors of projectile points (but possess little knowledge about them) or those who have just been introduced to this subject and would like to learn more. This audience will likely have a love of the outdoors and perhaps history too. They probably live/like to visit/have visited/plan to travel to an area within the Great Basin region.
- Age: 18 and up
- Learners are motivated by their own budding interest and are self-directed.
- No pre-requisite knowledge required.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, learners will know how to:

- Identify the basic shapes of Native American projectile points.
- Describe the anatomy of a projectile point and common flaking patterns.
- Distinguish common materials used to make projectile points in the Great Basin.
- Discern the major archaeological periods in which Native American projectile points of the Great Basin region were shaped.

Assessment

Learners will be assessed through a quiz after completing all modules of the course. The quiz will consist of a mix of 10 multiple choice and fill-in-blank questions as well as 5 matching questions asking learners to apply their knowledge of all modules by correctly identifying various categories of a particular projectile point. Knowledge checks will be utilized in three of the four modules.

How does the tutorial take advantage of the computer's potential and how does the selected use of media support instruction?

- Learners are able to explore relevant information all in one place rather than searching through volumes of tiresome research on the web.
- The tutorial is highly image-based, giving learners a very rich visual experience opposed to learning primarily through text.

- Using the menu option, learners can choose the order of his/her learning path.
- Animation, in the form of rollovers, supports the ability to present a hierarchy of information in a more lively and efficient manner.
- Animation, in the form of a drag and drop matching exercise, provides more interaction and learner engagement.
- Use of the "User Name Template" provides a personalized touch for the learner.