



Archaeology: 101

What are all of these stone chips?

Prehistoric sites in San Diego often contain a lot of stone chips and flakes called **debitage**. These chips were produced when making stone tools. Even if the tool is not found at the site, the debitage can tell us a lot. The type of stone indicates where it was from. Chips made of obsidian indicate long distance trade, as there is no source of obsidian in San Diego County. The size and type of flakes indicate the method used to produce the tool.



Prehistoric projectile point made of felsite with debitage.



Stone tool making workshop at the San Diego Archaeological Center. Notice all of the debitage produced. The Center hosts this workshop annually.