

# Artifacts From the Sands of NW Wisconsin



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For thousands of years humans have lived in North America. Modern archeology tells us that people started coming up from Central and South America 15,000+ years ago and have been down from Alaska, along the Pacific Coast for about 13,000 years and moved into the Arizona and Colorado areas about 12,000 years ago. I'm not sure when they came here but these carved stones prove that several groups lived in this area. As you experience these artifacts think about the level of technology that went into each. Are some from the same groups? Are they all from different groups? Did I guess the right usage?

Starting out our list of artifacts is a stunning selection of “rock” finger knives. These knives come in both right-hand and left-hand versions. As you work your way through the set notice how some are very smooth and polished and some are very rough shaped and others are in-between. Each knife, while working basically the same way, show extreme differences in the work put into making the knife “pretty”.

## Finger knives



NB01 is a stone finger knife. It is left-handed and polished to be very smooth on all edges except the cutting edge. It is sized for a smaller hand than mine, a cherished woman or child maybe? A lot of work went into this knife!



The second stone knife is right-handed, larger and not quite as polished. For a man's hand maybe?



NB03 is a very crude but effective stone knife.



NB04 is yet another style of knife made from yet another group of people.



NB05 is a knife with the blade toward the end and probably had a very sharp point



NB06 is a left-handed knife.



NB07 is a right-handed finger knife.



NB08 is a right-handed knife.



NB09 is a right-handed finger knife.



NB10 isn't a finger knife but it is an abrasive tool designed to be held the same way.



## Arrowheads

The type of artifacts most people are interested in are arrowheads. The group we have comes from many different levels of technology.



NB11 is an arrowhead for small game. I wouldn't shoot an expensive arrowhead at a rabbit or a squirrel and neither would they shoot small game with a point they took a long time to make.



NB12 is another arrowhead which is a simple design that is quite unique.



NB13 is another totally different style of arrowhead.



NB14 is another style arrowhead, it has a VERY unique three bladed design!



NB15 is an arrowhead that is as basic as an arrowhead needs to be. It seems to be the type of arrowhead a very primitive people would make it could also be. Someone's first or second try?



NB16 is too heavy for an arrow, it is a spearhead.



## Fingernail Tools

The ancients had a lot of the same needs we do. This small group includes finger/toe nail tools.





NB17 is a fingernail tool complete with a built-in emery board.



NB18 is also a possible fingernail tool. It's small shape and curved blade would have been for small cuts and scrapes.



## Warhammers



NB19 is a blade for a Warhammer or could it be the blade for a gardening hoe?



NB20 is also a hammerhead.



NB21 is an interestingly shaped abrasive stone, designed to fit your hand like a finger knife. It also has a flat side.



NB22 I think of as a nut cracker.



NB23 is a scraper that would allow the user's hand to be safely above the work piece or affixed to a handle.



NB24 is a sanding stone also designed to keep the user's fingers above the work piece or to be affixed to a handle



## Scrapers and shapers



NB25 is a scraper designed to be used on wood arrow and small handle type wood shafts.



NB26 is a wooden shaft polisher.



NB27 is another nut cracker. Drop it in a glass of water and look at it wet! The colors in this rock really come to life.



NB28 is a sandstone disc shaped to polish wooden shafts.



NB29 is a multi-tool, designed to shape wooden shafts. Tent poles? The curved end fits well in the palm of the hand. Or, could it be a meat cutter?



NB30 is another shaper of wooden shafts. It is a medium grit sandpaper grade.



NB31 is a shaper for small diameter shafts.



NB32 I'm not sure what this was made to do. Nut cracker?



NB33 is a scraper for small jobs. Maybe a kitchen tool or leather tool?



NB34 is a small sandstone. Rough grade.



NB35 is a fine shaping and polishing tool. ½ of the point seems to be cut with a curve to it while the other seems to be cut with a straight edge.



NB36 is a polishing stone.



NB37 is a small wood shaft/utility tool similar to NB29, but smaller.



How long ago were these stones shaped and what uses did the ancients put them to? Who were these ancients? How did they use rocks to shape these artifacts? These artifacts were designed and crafted before the discovery of steel!