

ABENAKI HUNTING TOOLS



Hunting was very important for the Abenaki. The Abenaki depended on animals for food. They also used parts of the animals for clothes, shelter, and tools. The Abenaki did not hunt for fun. When they killed an animal, they made sure not to waste any part of it. The Abenaki did not have guns, so they used tools they made to hunt.

WEAPONS

The Abenaki made pointed weapons out of sharpened stones and the bones of animals they hunted. In order for the weapon to actually kill the animal, the hunter had to be close to it. The Abenaki waited near where they knew the animals came to eat and drink. They tried to kill animals quickly to keep them from suffering. They usually thanked the spirit of the animals for helping the Abenaki to survive.

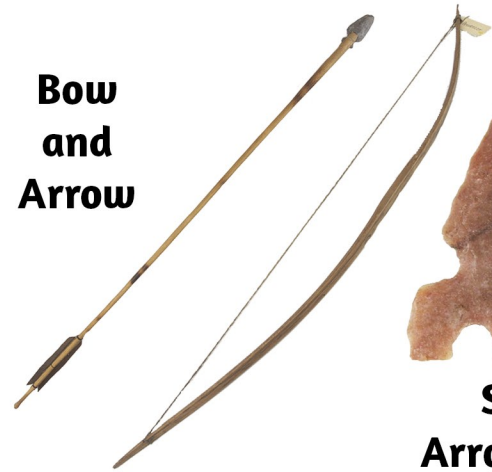
Stone
Spear
Point



Bone
Knife



Bow
and
Arrow

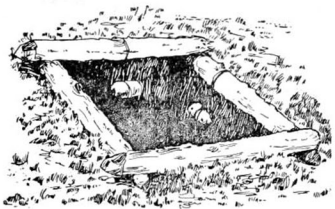


Stone
Arrow Point

TRAPS

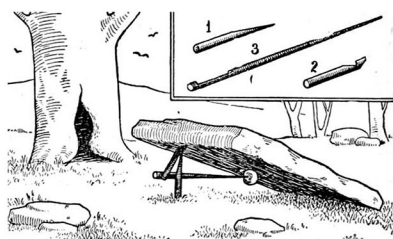
It was easier for the Abenaki to catch large or fast animals if they caught them in a trap first.

A **snare trap** used a springy tree and a loop of rope to catch an animal. When the animal bit the bait, the loop tightened around the animal.



Abenaki made a **pitfall trap** by digging a hole and covering it with sticks and leaves. When a heavy animal stepped on the cover, they fell in the hole.

When an animal took bait from a **deadfall trap**, a large stone or log fell down on it. The animal would be killed or stuck in place.



CAMOUFLAGE

Abenaki hunters disguised themselves using plants and animal skins. This covered up their smell so the animals didn't know they were coming! Hunters could get much closer to the animals for a better shot.



FIRE & SMOKE

Fire was an important part of hunting. The Abenaki hunters set small fires in the woods to drive the animals out of their hiding places. They also used fire to smoke meat. That way, the Abenaki had plenty to eat all year round, even when the hunting wasn't good.



1. Which type of animals do you think the Abenaki hunted using pointed tools? How about using traps?
2. How did the Abenaki use parts of previously caught animals when they went hunting? Give three examples.
3. Which tools do you think take the most training to use? What about the least?
4. How do we get most of our meat now? How do we think about animal products differently than the Abenaki do?