

Micro-Cores

Very small cores, or micro-cores, occur in significant numbers at the rancheria. These present a puzzle because tiny flakes were being struck from them, flakes too small to be used for making arrow points. Perhaps the small flakes were used in groups to make composite tools. For example, a series of small flakes could be inserted into a groove along a wooden stick or piece of antler to make a long-edged, serrated cutting tool. These small flakes also could have been used singly in delicate cutting or scraping tasks.

Discuss the following questions in your group:

1. What types of tools have taken the place of tools made from micro-cores?

2. Which tools do you think lasted longer? Tools made from micro-cores or the modern inventions? Why?