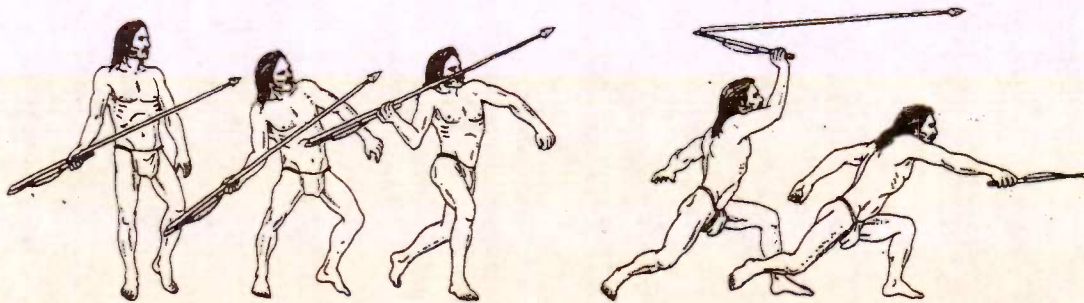


Side (upper drawing) and top (middle drawing) views of an *atlatl* or spear thrower from Broken Roof Cave in northeastern Arizona. The *atlatl* was made of oak with finger-loops of animal hide. A groove or notch in the end of the *atlatl* (middle drawing) helped to hold the spear in position and the stone added weight and increased the force of the throw. The lower drawing shows how the *atlatl* was held in the hand.



Paleo-Indians used the *atlatl* to hunt large animals. Use of the *atlatl* following the steps illustrated increased the power and thrust of the spear. Experiments have shown that this weapon is capable of mortally wounding large animals such as elephants.

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