

**M0008737: A Warramunga man making an axe-head out of diorite**

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of levelling the surface. For this purpose the operator takes a small rounded pebble of quartzite, and hour after hour, for a day or two in succession, he will patiently hammer away or rather tap at the rough surface, each stroke removing a fragment of the stone, until the whole surface is covered over with minute dents and all of the irregularities are smoothed down. In a well-made axe this operation is performed so thoroughly that all traces of the first made, rough flaking are removed (Fig. 199). There is, however, great variation in this respect, and the older axes, as a general rule, are much superior in workmanship to those of

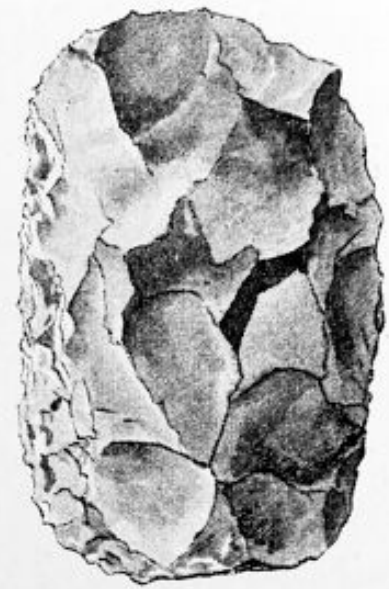


FIG. 198.—BLOCK OF DIORITE, ROUGHLY CHIPPED INTO SHAPE, READY TO BE FURTHER CHIPPED AND THEN GROUND TO FORM AN AXE-HEAD. WARRAMUNGA TRIBE.

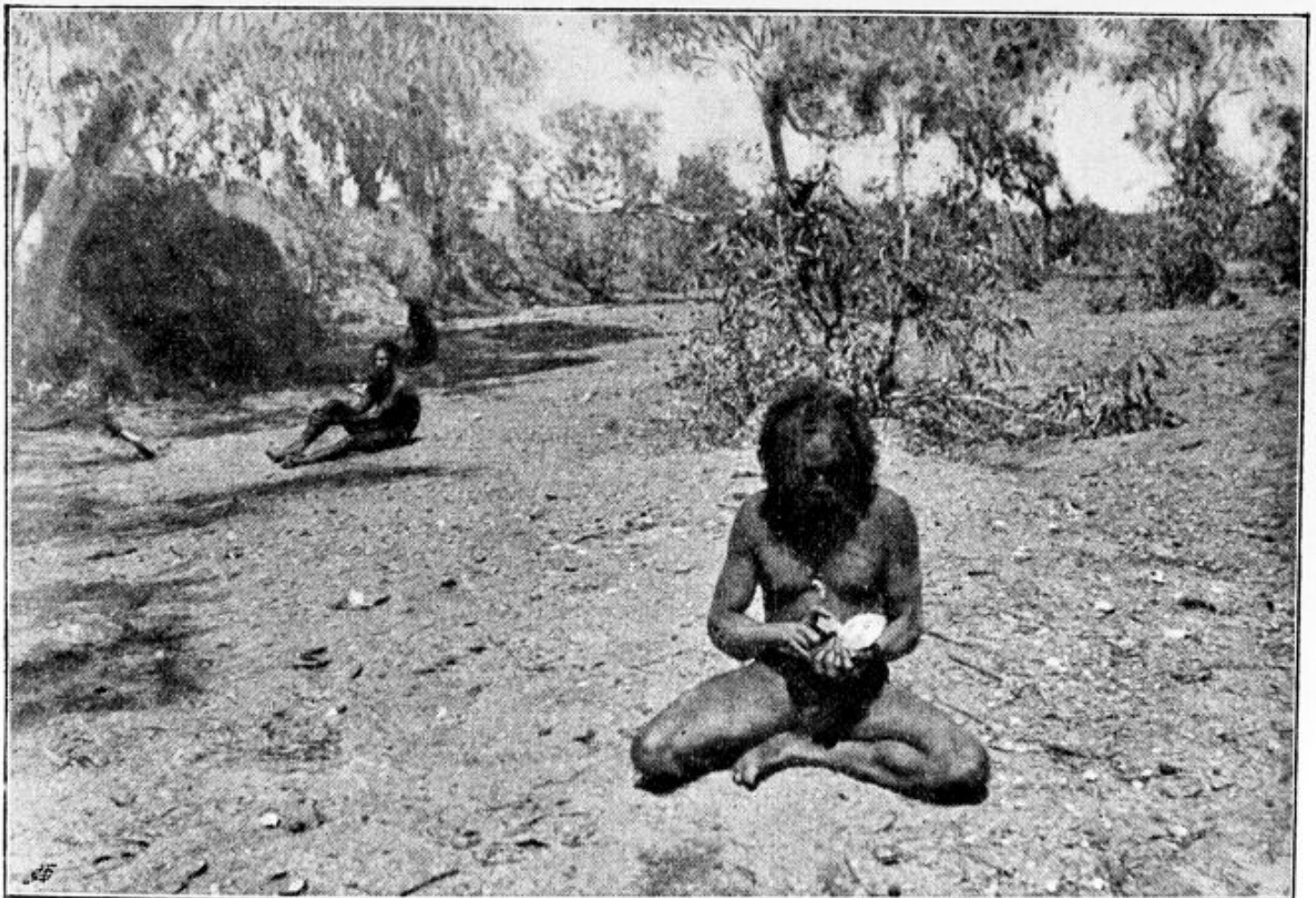


FIG. 199.—CHIPPING A BLOCK OF DIORITE PRIOR TO GRINDING IT DOWN TO FORM AN AXE-HEAD. WARRAMUNGA TRIBE.