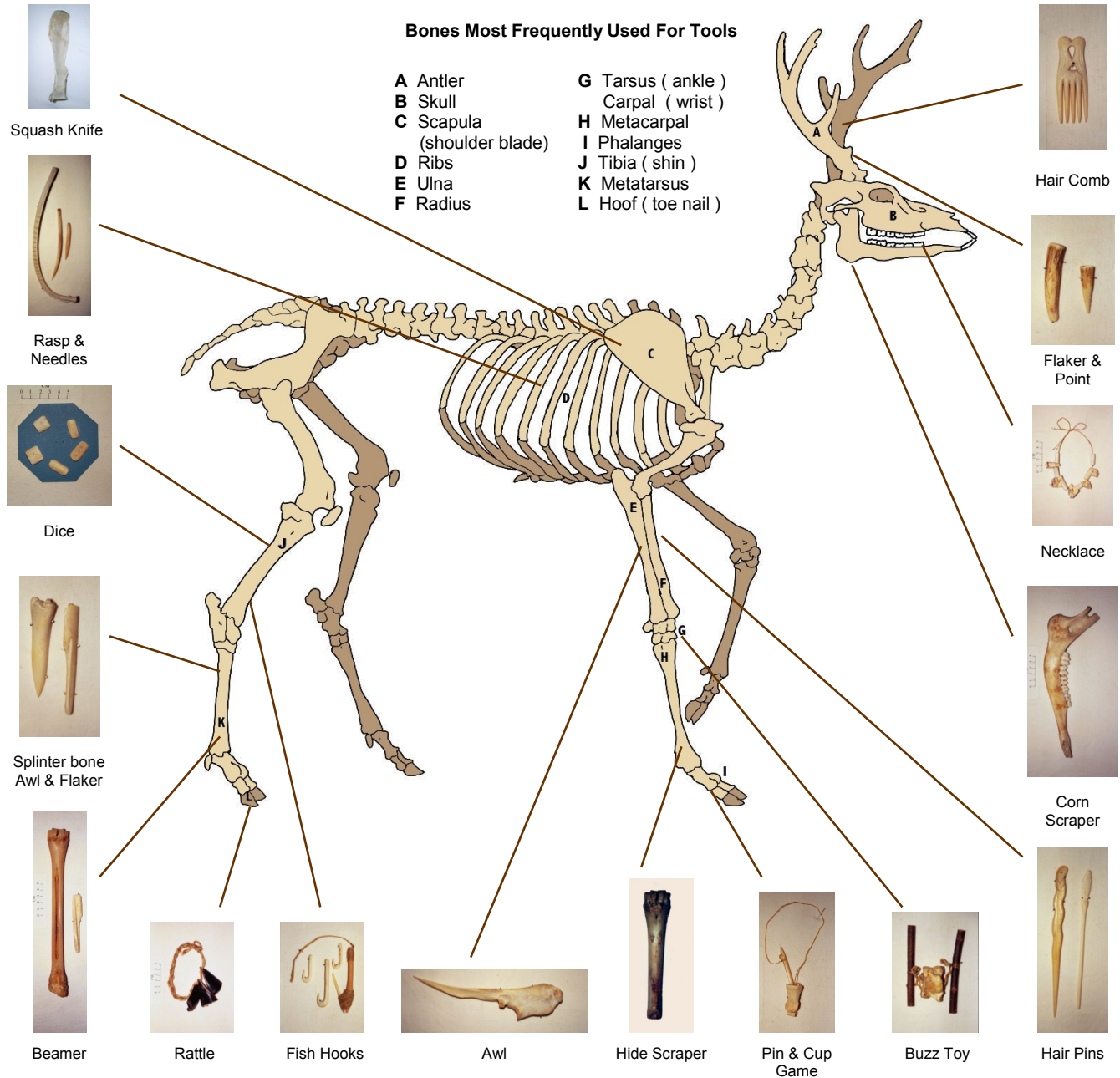


Deer Bone Tools



For centuries, Native Peoples of the Americas made a host of articles of bone. In the Eastern United States deer supplied pre-Colombian civilizations with most of what they needed. None of the animal was wasted. The hide was used for clothing, as well as anything they might need from leather. Untanned hide (rawhide) was used for articles that needed to be hard or stiff. Tanned hide was made into clothing, and any articles of soft leather. The meat (muscle) was eaten or dried. The tendons (sinew) was used for sewing thread, bow string and bindings to attach arrow points.

The bone was fashioned into tools such as spoons, knives, awls, pins, fish hooks, needles, flakers, hide scrapers and beamers. They made musical rasps, flutes and whistles as well as toys of

bone. Decoratively carved articles were also made of bone such as hair combs, hair pins and pendants.

Antler is much harder than bone and was used for flakers, points, knives and hair combs. Even the teeth and hooves did not go to waste. The teeth were drilled and used for decoration on clothing and necklaces. The hooves were also drilled and used for decoration on clothing as well as strung for rattles and bells.

We can learn a lot about conservation from the creative technologies of earlier civilizations