When the bow and arrow replaced the use of darts propelled through the air with atlatls about 2,000 years ago, they brought about major changes in hunting techniques. The bow could shoot an arrow toward game animals from a greater distance, and with more force and accuracy, than was possible with the atlatl and dart. Arrow points could be smaller and lighter than dart points and still kill bison, elk, and deer, as well as small animals. Although chipped stone arrow points were used only over a span of about 1,500 years — in comparison to the many thousands of years that dart points were used — archeologists have observed a progression of styles from corner-notched stemmed forms to side-notched (and sometimes base-notched) triangular forms, to the plain triangular form.

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