



## THE POWER OF FRICTION

# Friction Fires

The heat we use to cook and keep warm today was not always easy to get. Before stovetops, lighters, and matches existed, people made fires for their cooking and heating needs in other ways. Many of these fire making techniques relied on friction.

The flint and steel method, for example, was popular throughout the world. When a piece of steel is struck with a sharp piece of flint, small steel flakes get shaved off and ignite into sparks due to the friction between the rock and metal. These sparks then land on dry and flammable material called tinder and start a small fire.

### The Flint and Steel Method

