Chert and flint

Check an existing chip, then look for evidence of the original bed.



Curved fracture

Flint hand specimen

Find the broad hollow in the middle of the face. Fine-grained chert can break this way, as can glass.

Photo: Andreas Trepte CC BY-SA 2.5



Nodule in chalk

Dover, England

Follow the contact between dark flint and white chalk. The documented chalk host helps justify the flint label.

Photo: James St. John CC BY 2.0



Bedded chart

Busuanga Island, Philippines

Trace one folded layer across the exposure. Record the host and layering before examining a loose chip.

Photo: Paul Christian B. Yang-ed CC BY-SA 4.0

Your specimen

Shape and grain size on the broken face

Rind, host rock and collection locality

Working identification and remaining uncertainty