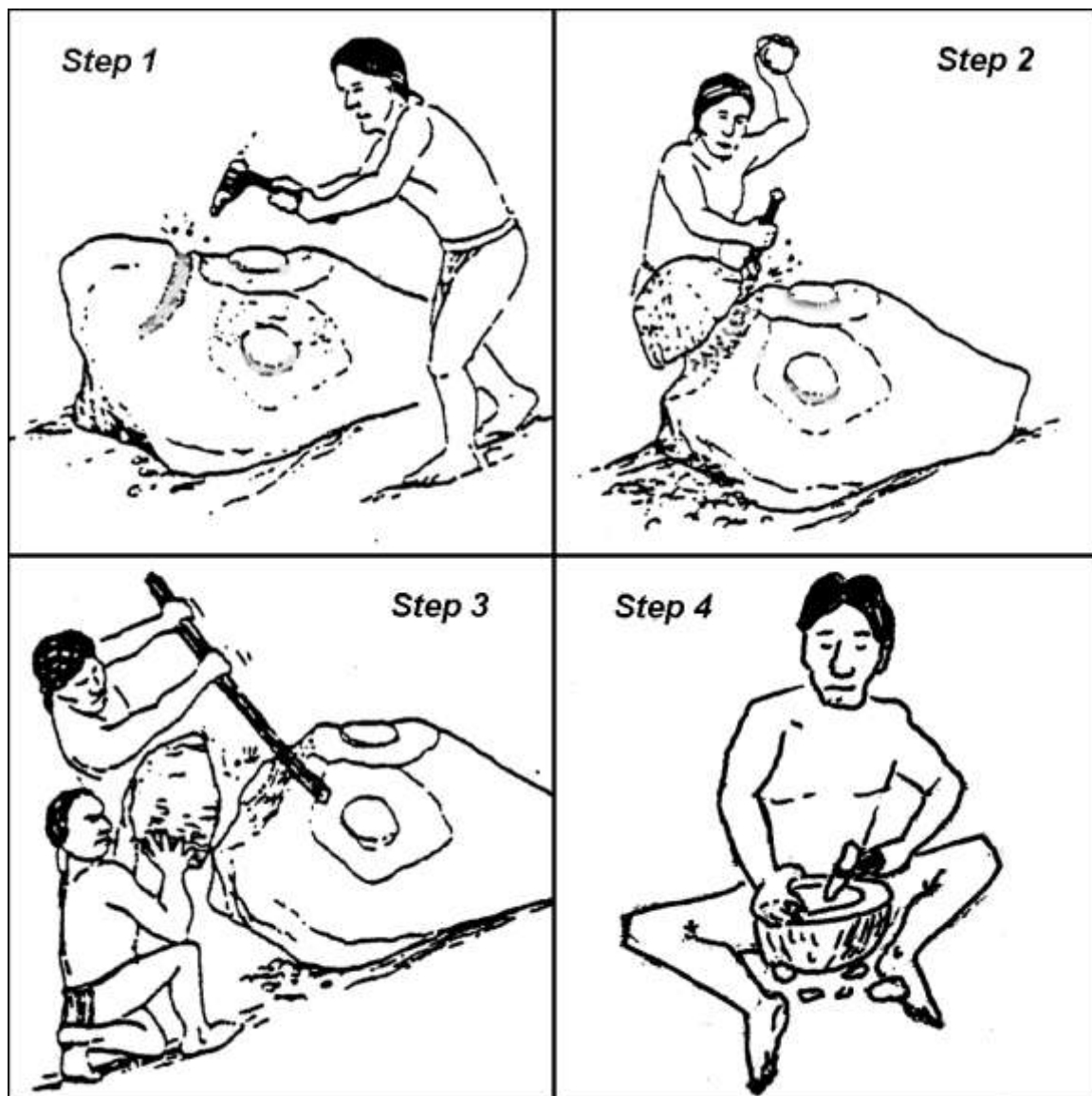


Stone Bowl Manufacturing Process

The figures illustrate (in rather crude form) the soapstone bowl production process. Evidence indicates that all bowl manufacturing in the Southeast was done using basically the same techniques. (Note that in these illustrations, scars from earlier bowl quarrying are shown on the boulder.) The various stages of bowl production are as follows:



Soapstone Bowl Production

Step 1: Once a suitable soapstone boulder was located, the worker found a rounded protuberance and/or chipped away at the rock (using stone tools) until a roughly rounded bottom of the bowl took shape.

Step 2: Once the preform exterior is roughed out, the worker chipped around the circumference to undercut the preform, readying it for detachment from the parent rock.

Step 3: The preform is detached, using some combination of additional chipping, wedges, or a wooden pry bar.

Step 4: The inside of the bowl is now chipped/carved out. Wall thickness, presence of handles and the amount of finishing on the bowl depended on planned use and other factors.