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STUDY GUIDE SAFE USE OF THE CHISEL

NAME: _____

CLASS OR PERIOD: _____

DATE OF INSTRUCTION: _____

1. The chisel is one of the simplest hand tools, *and* it's one of the most dangerous. More injuries have been caused by the misuse of the chisel than by any other hand tool. Use it with respect, care and attention.
2. Wear eye protection. Protect your eyes from flying splinters and wood chips.
3. Use chisels and gouges that are sharp and in good condition. A dull or damaged chisel can be more dangerous than a sharp one.
4. Don't use your fingers to see if the chisel is sharp. If the chisel is as sharp as it should be, you'll cut yourself. Test it on a piece of scrap wood.
5. Check the handle on the chisel to make sure it is fastened firmly. The handle must be secure.
6. The handle must be in good condition. Don't use a chisel with a split, damaged or "mushroomed" handle.
7. Fasten down the work. Use a vise, clamps or hold-downs to hold the work securely. *Don't* try to hold the work with one hand and use the chisel with the other hand. You need both hands free to work with the chisel.
8. Never point the chisel toward any part of your body. Always work so the chisel is pointed away from you.
9. Keep both hands *behind* the blade. Don't place your fingers, hands or arms in front of the blade. Always keep them behind the blade.
10. Use the chisel only for what it was designed to do.
11. Use the right type of chisel for the work. There are several different types of chisels. Use the correct chisel for the work you want to do.
12. Use the right size chisel. Don't use a small, light chisel for heavy, rough work, and don't try to do fine work with a large, heavy chisel. Use the size that's right for the work.
13. Avoid using a steel hammer with a chisel. Use a mallet.
14. When you use the chisel with a mallet, tap it firmly, but don't strike it too hard. Don't strike the chisel as though you're driving a nail.
15. Avoid removing too much material at one time. It's much safer to make several shallow cuts instead of one deep cut. A series of shallow cuts also results in better work.
16. Avoid putting the chisel down near the edge of the bench. It could roll off or someone might run into it. Lay the chisel down near the center of the bench.