






**Technology V11/S3: Early Human Tools**

Human development has coincided with the creation of new technologies and inventions. Humans have always used the world around them to their benefit. The earliest inventions were made of readily available materials, such as rocks and sticks. Though they look unassuming, they are the building blocks of the complicated technology we use today.



If you walked past an early tool, you would mistake it as nothing special. It would take an expert's eyes to notice the sharpened and shaped edges of these early tools. These tools were shaped using other rocks and sticks. Though this seems simple, it is the beginning of using tools to make other tools.

Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5
<p>Process starts with a large rock.</p> 	<p>The large rock is shaped using a smaller rock.</p> 	<p>A hammer is used to sharpen the edge.</p> 	<p>Small pieces are trimmed off using a pointed stick.</p> 	<p>The tool is now finished and ready to use.</p> 

Tools like these were primarily used to hunt animals and gather plants for eating. Hand axes could be tied to sticks (creating an arrow or a spear) and thrown at animals from a distance. Tools like these allowed humans to safely hunt and save energy. Extra proteins from hunting led to the growth of the human brain, which eventually led to society as we know it today. Humans aren't the only animals to have used tools, but they are the most advanced. Other animals that use tools include other mammals and fish.