

Close Reading and Text Directed Questions

**Paleolithic Period**

(1) Generally speaking, the **Paleolithic** level of development was attained in the period from about 2.5 million years ago to 10,000 years ago. During that time, early humans and their ancestors got their food by hunting animals, by fishing, and by gathering fruits, nuts, and other wild plant material. Groups were **nomadic**, traveling from time to time or with the seasons to find food. They lived in caves, under rock overhangs, or out in the open. Paleolithic art included small sculptures of human or animal forms made of clay, stone, or bone and large paintings and **incised** [*mark or decorate (an object or surface) with a cut or a series of cuts.*] designs on the walls of caves. In addition to making stone tools, Paleolithic people made tools of bone, antler, ivory, wood, and probably other **perishable** [*things, especially foodstuffs, likely to decay or go bad quickly*] materials that have not survived.

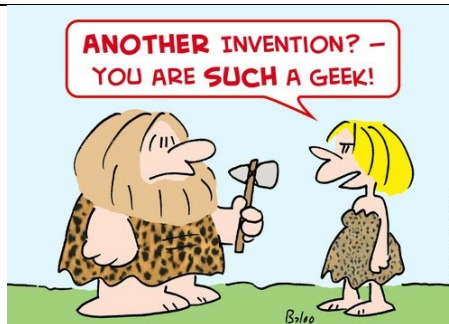
1. Paleo - \_\_\_\_\_ lithic - \_\_\_\_\_
2. Use evidence from the text to define the word **nomadic**. \_\_\_\_\_
3. How did early man get their food? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What other materials did Paleolithic people make their tools from? \_\_\_\_\_

(2) The earliest known stone tools were simple pebble tools, or choppers, which could be used for cutting, hacking, hammering, mashing, digging up roots, or scraping. A typical pebble tool was a waterworn, flattish, fist-sized rock with one edge sharpened into a blade. The blade was fashioned by pounding another rock against the edge, chipping away the stone to form a sharp jagged ridge

5. What were the earliest stone tools called? \_\_\_\_\_. What could they be used for? \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Over time, different groups refined the pebble tool, producing sharper and straighter edges, and developed more sophisticated types of stone tool. Thinner **implements** [tools] with two sharpened edges included the hand ax and the cleaver. The hand ax was a teardrop-shaped tool that was probably used to skin and butcher animals and for tasks involving chopping and scraping. The cleaver had a wide cutting edge instead of a point at the end and was probably better for hunting and hacking at wood. Another type of stone tool was formed by striking the edge of a stone to break off a large flake; the flake itself was then carefully shaped into a point or a knifelike scraper. Long, thin stone blades with straight (not **serrated** [saw-like] ) edges were also developed. While the earliest stone tools were all held in the hand, by the late Paleolithic some stone tools, including axheads, spearheads, and arrowheads, were being attached to handles or shafts.

6. According to the passage above, what **conclusion** can be drawn about tools during the Paleolithic Age? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What words from the passage led you to this conclusion? \_\_\_\_\_



(4) Three main techniques were used to create the chipped-stone tools of the Paleolithic. Flakes could be broken off a rock by striking it with a hammer of rock, bone, or wood held in the hand. Another method involved striking the rock itself onto the edge of a large fixed block of stone that served as an anvil. In a more advanced technique, a pointed instrument of bone, antler, or wood was used to pry off, rather than strike off, tiny flakes of stone.

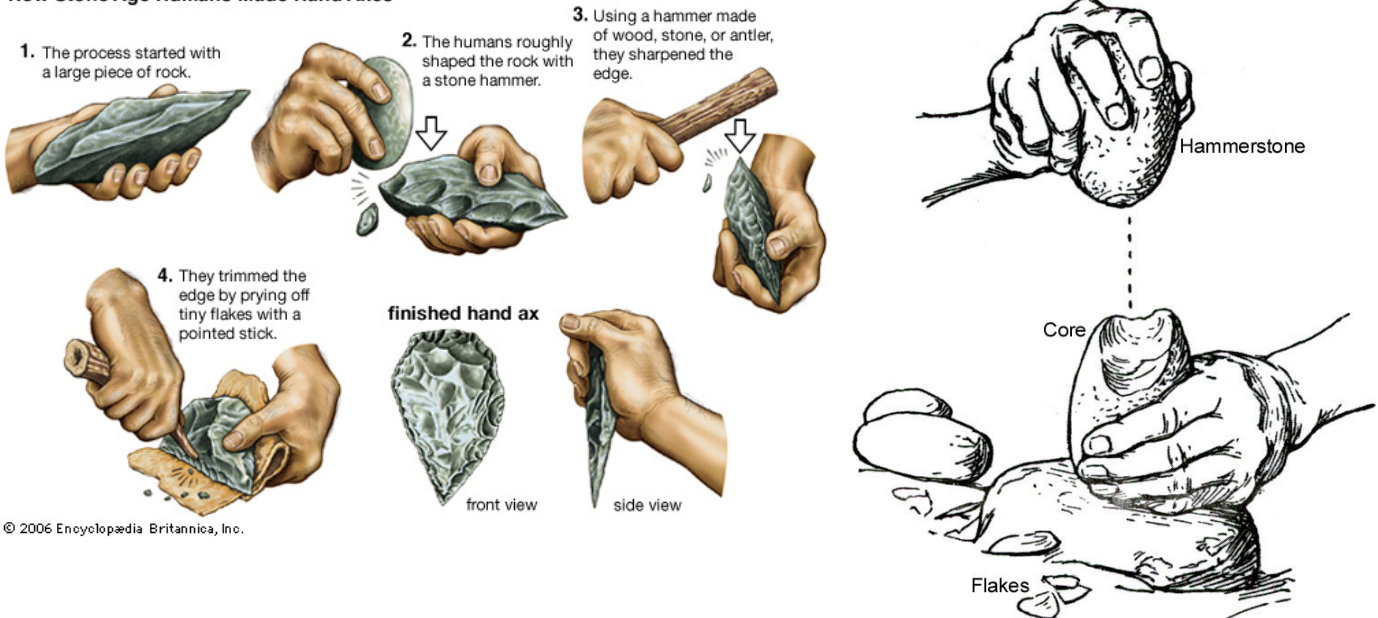
(5) Most of the stone tools were made of flint, a form of quartz with a uniform, fine grain that can easily be chipped to form a sharp edge. Although flint is found in many parts of the world, it was not readily available everywhere, and some stone tools were instead made of sandstones, quartzites, jasper, and other quartzes, obsidian, and various other rocks.

From Britannica Online

8. What is the central idea of paragraph (5)? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What is the central idea of the **ENTIRE** passage? \_\_\_\_\_

### How Stone Age Humans Made Hand Axes



10. Use evidence from the passage above to briefly summarize the lifestyle of early humans.

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