M8 Assignment: Pick a Hominin/Pick A Project

You can have fun with this! Your will create a 400-word minimum document introducing/ promoting a fossil of your choice. Be creative, if you and your fossil are comfortable with that – but stick to the facts! You will be graded on:

The appropriate use and interpretation of all relevant data: physical and cultural

Accurate interpretation of empirical data and your understanding of the key elements of your fossil.

Your use of our anthropological toolkit.

Your project, while fanciful, needs to be based on solid paleoanthropology.

Use both physical and cultural data as appropriate. You are making a case (a date, job, etc.) so be persuasive and highlight your fossil’s main features – both physical and cultural. For physical, perhaps include a short description and significance/ usefulness of relevant features. For cultural characteristics, consider including skills, capabilities, or achievements. For the very earliest fossils, you may find it useful to draw on our M6 material on chimpanzees (biology and behavior).

Incorporate at least three sources: Smithsonian’s Human Origins plus two others.

Provide two graphics.

Minimum length: 400 words

Cite your three sources using MLA style

Proof your work for capitalization, grammar, and spelling errors.

Organize your work using conventions such as paragraphing, subtitles (like our modules), numbers, or bullets – but only if appropriate for your project!

For a job posting seeking a tool builder, Homo habilis would be the most fitting choice among the hominins listed. Homo habilis, known colloquially as the "Handy Man," is recognized for its association with early stone tool production. Here's how the job posting might look:

Job Title: Stone Tool Builder

Company: Prehistoric Innovations Ltd.

Location: East Africa

Job Description:

Are you passionate about innovation and craftsmanship? Do you possess a keen eye for detail and a knack for problem-solving? Prehistoric Innovations Ltd. is seeking a skilled Stone Tool Builder to join our dynamic team in East Africa. As a Stone Tool Builder, you will play a pivotal role in crafting cutting-edge tools that revolutionize the way early humans interact with their environment.

Key Responsibilities:

Stone Tool Production: Utilize raw materials such as flint, obsidian, and quartz to craft durable and efficient stone tools. Employ knapping techniques to shape and refine tools for various purposes, including hunting, butchery, and woodworking.

Innovative Design: Collaborate with fellow craftsmen to develop innovative tool designs that enhance efficiency and functionality. Experiment with different materials and techniques to push the boundaries of toolmaking in the prehistoric era.

Quality Assurance: Maintain strict quality control standards to ensure the durability and reliability of crafted tools. Conduct thorough inspections and testing procedures to identify and rectify any defects or weaknesses in the finished products.

Tool Maintenance: Provide ongoing maintenance and repair services for existing tools, ensuring they remain in optimal condition for extended use. Implement preventive measures to prolong the lifespan of tools and minimize wear and tear.

Qualifications:

Demonstrated proficiency in stone tool production techniques, including percussion and pressure flaking.

Strong understanding of lithic raw materials and their properties, with the ability to select suitable materials for specific tool applications.

Excellent hand-eye coordination and manual dexterity, essential for precision knapping and shaping activities.

Creative problem-solving skills and a willingness to experiment with new techniques and designs.

Strong communication and teamwork skills, with the ability to collaborate effectively with colleagues from diverse backgrounds.

Benefits:

Competitive salary commensurate with experience and expertise.

Opportunity for career advancement and professional development within a rapidly growing industry.

Access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources for toolmaking and experimentation.

Work-life balance initiatives, including flexible scheduling and remote work options.

Health and wellness benefits, including medical, dental, and vision coverage.

How to Apply:

If you're ready to embark on a journey of innovation and discovery, we want to hear from you! Please submit your resume and a brief cover letter outlining your relevant experience and why you're passionate about stone tool building to [contact email].

Prehistoric Innovations Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer committed to diversity and inclusion in the workplace. We encourage individuals of all backgrounds to apply.

This job posting highlights Homo habilis' role as an early toolmaker and emphasizes the skills and qualities necessary for success in the position.