The Paleolithic Period is characterized by the creation and use of rudimentary chipped stone tools.

Pebble tools, hand adzes, scrapers, cleavers, and points were typical Paleolithic tools.

Paleolithic tools were made from stone, bone, and wood.

The period also featured small sculptures, such as carved stone statuettes and clay figurines.

Cave paintings, incised designs, and reliefs were common Paleolithic artistic expressions.

The Paleolithic Period began around 2.58 million years ago, near the start of the Pleistocene Epoch.

In 2015, tools dating to 3.3 million years ago were found near Kenya’s Lake Turkana.

These tools may have been created by Australopithecus or its contemporaries, not Homo.

The Paleolithic Period ended when the Neolithic Period began, around 10,000 BCE.

During the Neolithic, humans learned to cultivate crops and domesticate livestock.

Homo erectus, Homo neanderthalensis, and Homo sapiens all achieved Paleolithic development.

Homo sapiens, which includes all modern humans, originated in Africa more than 315,000 years ago.

Homo erectus lived from about 1.9 million to 200,000 years ago.

Homo neanderthalensis inhabited Eurasia from at least 200,000 to 24,000 years ago.

Australopithecus, living in Africa from 4.4 to 1.4 million years ago, may have created the earliest known tools.

The Paleolithic Period is an ancient cultural stage characterized by the use of rudimentary chipped stone tools.

The popular Paleo diet is based on foods humans presumably consumed during the Paleolithic Period.

The onset of the Paleolithic Period traditionally coincides with evidence of tool construction and use by Homo around 2.58 million years ago.

In 2015, primitive stone tools dating to 3.3 million years ago were discovered near Kenya's Lake Turkana.

The tools found at Lake Turkana predate the oldest confirmed specimens of Homo by almost 1 million years.

The Paleolithic Period is often divided into three parts: Lower, Middle, and Upper Paleolithic.

The Lower Paleolithic is divided into the Oldowan Stage and the Acheulean Stage.

The Oldowan Stage lasted from about 2.6 million to 1 million years ago, characterized by simple pebble tools.

The Acheulean Stage lasted from 1.7–1.5 million years ago to about 250,000–200,000 years ago, marked by sophisticated hand axes.

Some anthropologists suggest adding a third stage, the Lomekwian Stage, to account for tools predating the Oldowan Stage.

The Middle Paleolithic lasted from about 250,000 to 30,000 years ago, characterized by flake tools and the widespread use of fire.

The Upper Paleolithic lasted from about 50,000–40,000 years ago until about 10,000 years ago, marked by more sophisticated tools.

The Chopper chopping-tool industry was widely distributed in the Eastern Hemisphere, attributed to Homo erectus.

H. erectus likely made tools of wood and bone, although no fossil tools have yet been found.

About 700,000 years ago, the hand ax appeared as a new Lower Paleolithic tool.

The Abbevillian industry, developing in northern France, produced some of the earliest European hand axes.

The Acheulean industry produced refined hand axes found across Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and Asia.

The Mousterian industry, associated with Neanderthals, developed from early flake industries.

Shell beads dating to approximately 82,000 years ago have been found in both North and South Africa.

The Upper Paleolithic was characterized by regional stone tool industries such as Perigordian and Aurignacian.

The Upper Paleolithic industries are associated with anatomically modern humans like Cro-Magnons.

Paleolithic art includes small sculptures and monumental paintings, incised designs, and reliefs on cave walls.

Venus figures are small, stylized statuettes emphasizing female sexuality and fertility found from the Upper Paleolithic.

The Franco-Cantabrian school in western Europe is known for its monumental arts and cave paintings.

The function of Paleolithic art remains debated, with theories including magical rites, seasonal notation, or creative expression.

Evidence of prehistoric musical instruments includes partial bone or ivory flutes dating to about 35,000 years ago.