



## Ancient Stone and Bone Tools

**Source: IE**

A recent study found that **ancient ancestors** used **bone tools 1.5 million years ago**, nearly **a million years earlier** than believed, **challenging** the idea that toolmaking was **unique to humans**.

- **Origin of Toolmaking:** The earliest **stone tools (3.3 million years)** and **bone tools (1.5 million years)**, indicating that tool use **predates Homo** and was likely practiced by **earlier hominins**.
  - It is argued that toolmaking required **conceptual thought** and was **unique to humans**.
- **Fossil of Human Evolution:** Discovered in **1974**, Lucy, a **3.2-million-year-old human ancestor**, played a key role in evolution, possibly **using her hands for tools**.
- **Stone Tools in India's Human History:**

Period	Tools & Technology	Key Sites
<b>Lower Palaeolithic (600,000 - 150,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Hand axes</b> , cleavers, choppers (for cutting, chopping, skinning)	Bori (Maharashtra), <b>Son &amp; Sohan valleys (Punjab)</b> , Didwana (Rajasthan), Bhimbetka (MP)
<b>Middle Palaeolithic (150,000 - 35,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Flakes, blades, points</b> , borers, scrapers (from small stone pieces)	Narmada valley, <b>Belan valley (UP)</b> , Tungabhadra region (South India)
<b>Upper Palaeolithic (35,000 - 10,000 BCE)</b>	<b>Blades, burins, scrapers</b> (more refined and diverse)	<b>Bhimbetka (MP)</b> , Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat sand dunes
<b>Mesolithic Age (9000 - 4000 BCE)</b>	<b>Microliths</b> (tiny stone tools, often used as composite tools)	Bagor (Rajasthan), <b>Adamgarh (MP)</b> , South of Krishna River
<b>Neolithic Age (7000 - 5500 BCE)</b>	<b>Rectangular axes</b> , polished stone axes	<b>Mehrgarh (Balochistan)</b> , Burzahom (Kashmir), Gufkral (Kashmir), Senuwar (Bihar)

**Read More:** [Wooden Artifacts of Stone Age](#)

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