

AXE

**When was it invented?** Around 1.6 million years ago, give or take a few hundred thousand.

**What does it do?** Axes are very handy for hitting [Sabre Tooth Tigers](https://www.imagininghistory.co.uk/post/beginner-s-guide-to-stone-age-animals) over the head, certainly a step up from having to resort to wrestling a tiger instead. They would also enable Prehistoric people to chop wood in order to fuel a fire. Axes were vital for constructing other tools and resources and allowed for further awesome inventions.

**How do you make it?** Use wood or an antler as a ‘Knap’ to shape the stone, ensuring it’s nice and sharp. Then attach it to a wooden handle with ‘cordage’. Cordage is a fancy word for rope made from entwined plant stems.

**Did you know?** The axe has been a tool for millions of years, and we still use it today!

**Spear**

**When was it invented?** Around 500,000 years ago, though some anthropologists claim they could have been used 5 million years ago. We might never know which the correct figure is, unlike with stone there’d be no trace left of an entirely wooden spear.

**What does it do?** Great for hunting. Spears offer range to keep the hunter safe from her prey.

**How do you make it?** The simplest model is just a sturdy branch sharpened to a point with fire, stone or – if you’re really desperate – teeth.

**Did you know?** Spears could be used as harpoons to catch fish. Fishing was the preferred method of hunting in the Stone Age, much less dangerous than hunting cave bears as fish can’t fight back!



**Club**

**When was it invented?** Your guess is as good as ours – since the dawn of time? With a club essentially being a big stick, who knows when our ancestors first wielded it?

**What does it do?** Clubs are ideal for warfare, they are much quicker to construct than axes or spears so you can quickly get your pals kitted out for a ruck.

**How do you make it?** Find a big, heavy log. Jab some stones into the bark to add heft. That’s it, you’re ready to go clubbing.

**Did you know?** Violence has been with humanity since the beginning. There is a 10,000 year old battleground called Nataruk. Many of the 27 skeletons found at the ancient battle site were likely killed by clubs.

**Bow and Arrow**

**When was it invented?** Roughly 12,000 years ago. Though Bows and Arrows may have been used in South Africa an astonishing 70,000 years ago.

**What does it do?** Great for hunting. Humans can now hunt any animal, no matter how big, tough, or strong they are.

**How do you make it?** Shave a long piece of wood from a tree with a sharp bone. Use a sandstone to smooth the wood. Don’t forget to use some cordage (rope made from plant stems) to be the bow string.

**Did you know?** Bows and arrows were so effective that humanity drove many giant Stone Age animals to extinction.

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## **Clothing:**

Unlike Hollywood would like to have us believe, [Stone Age people](https://www.imagininghistory.co.uk/post/stone-age-humans) did not go around wearing fur undies and little else!

Historians believe that humans may have started wearing clothing some 500,000 years ago. It was very cold during this era thanks to plentiful ice Ages, so prehistoric fashionistas would be clad head to toe in many layers of warm fur and leather.

At this early stage, the animal hides would not be trimmed or stitched to fit the wearer's body - instead, they would be more like blankets that were wrapped around the body and held in place by leather strips used like straps.

Just make sure you clean the animal’s hide out first – icky!

Later, Stone Age humans started using a sharp, pointed tool called an Awl. The Awl was used to punch holes through the animal hides so that straps or cordage could be weaved through and used like laces to bring together the sides of the hide around the body. Stone Age people had to wait another 5000 years before the invention of the first ever needle to help make tailoring clothes a little easier!





**Jewellery:**

Survival was very difficult in the Stone Age, but that didn’t mean ancient humans only wanted to wear boring furs – they wanted to look good too!

Around 75,000 years ago humans had made the first necklaces by stringing together shells. But they didn’t stop there, soon they were creating all sorts of jewellery, including bracelets, pendants and hair pins. Bracelets and necklaces featured beads made from animal bones, teeth (yep, sometimes human teeth!), shells and stones. The beads were sometimes carved into shapes or decorated with patterns.