

INVESTIGATION QUESTION

What does the process of making a stone tool reveal about the cognitive abilities of early Homo?

HYPOTHESIS

Hint: try writing it as "If _____, then _____, because _____."

MATERIALS

bars of soap, plastic knives, toothpicks, paper towels or tray

PROCEDURE

Summarize what you did in your own words.

Tool Making Reflection Table

Question	Your Response
What was most difficult about shaping the tool?	
How many steps ahead did you have to plan?	
What would happen if you made a mistake? Could you fix it?	
How long did it take to make something functional?	

ANALYSIS

What specific cognitive skills does tool making require? List at least four and explain each.

CONCLUSION

Researchers have found that making an Acheulean handaxe requires planning multiple steps ahead. What does this tell us about the intelligence of Homo erectus compared to earlier hominins who only made Oldowan tools?

CONNECT IT

Look up the Oldowan and Acheulean tool traditions. How much time separates them? What was the key innovation of the Acheulean handaxe?

THINK FURTHER

Fire changed human life in multiple ways beyond just warmth. List at least three ways that controlled use of fire would have changed early human society, diet, and survival.

ADDITIONAL NOTES