



**Analysis of how females and males
(children, juveniles and adults)
respond to handaxe symmetry, colour
and size.**

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What are Hand axes?

Hand axes are lithic tools, their shape is oval and they possess a broad base narrowing to a rounded point, whereby both surfaces are flaked so that the edges are sharp around the entire periphery (Klein, 2009).

Where and when do Hand axes occur?

Hand axes appeared first at about 1,600,000 years ago until about 300,000 years ago and were found at various sites in Africa and western Eurasia (Stringer et al. 2011).

Who made Hand axes?

These tools are mainly associated with ancestors of anatomically modern human such as *Homo ergaster* (from 1,800,000 ya until about 600,000 ya), *Homo erectus* (from 1,800,000ya until about 143,000ya) and *Homo heidelbergensis* (from 600,000ya until 200,000ya), but also their descendent species the Neanderthals and *Homo sapiens* (Boyd et al. 2009, Klein 2009, Lockwood et al. 2008, Stringer et al. 2011).

What are Hand axes made of?

The main raw material used to make handaxes are lithics, such as obsidian and basalt (mainly in Africa) and other local lithics such as chert, flint, ignimbrite and quartz (Bilsborough 1992, Stringer et al. 2011).

What is the function of Hand axes?

Handaxes have been used to process meat, for digging up tubers, as weapons, to strip bark from trees, to process vegetable fruits, to crack nuts, to make wells to acquire water, for capturing burrowing animals or as flake dispenser.