

THE CASCADE OF TECHNOLOGICAL EVOLUTION

Pre-Oldowan Era <i>Australopithecus</i> (4.5-2.5 MYA) (2.6-1.0 <i>Paranthrop.</i>)	Oldowan Era <i>Homo rudolfensis</i> <i>Homo habilis</i> (2.5-1.6 MYA)	Early Paleolithic Era <i>Homo ergaster</i> <i>Homo erectus</i> (1.9-1.4/1.8-250K)	Middle Paleolithic Era <i>Homo sapiens</i> <i>archaicus</i> (500K-30K)	Upper Paleolithic Era <i>H. sapiens sapiens</i> (Early 200K-60K Late 60K-)
Tool Using A (e.g., termiting)				
<u>Nutcracking</u> B (hammer+anvil tools)				
Pre-Oldowan Smashing Stones (e.g. Bouri 2.5M)	I Omo Oldowan A bipolar techq 2.5 MYA <i>(2.2 MYA)</i>			
	<u>Classic Oldowan</u> B 2.0 MYA			
	II Evolved Oldowan A 1.5-7 MYA (e.g. Karari) <i>(1.6 MYA)</i>			
	<u>Developed Oldow.</u> A B 1.5-1.7 MYA			
	Developed Oldow. B 1.1-1.5 MYA	I Early Acheulian A (e.g., Peninj, EF-HR) <i>(1.3 MYA)</i>		
		<u>Early Acheulian</u> B 1.1 MYA		
		II Middle Acheulian A 1 M YA <i>(800K)</i>		
		Middle Acheulian B (VOA1, 600K)		
		III Later Acheulian A (VOA2, 500K) <i>(350K)</i>		
		<u>Later Acheulian</u> B OA400,MA300,LA200		
		Final Acheulian 100K	Early MP Mousterian A MSA 240K; M.A.T. <i>(140K)</i>	
			Later MP <u>Mousterian</u> B classic Neanderthal 45K	
			Transitional 45-35K (e.g., Châtelperronian)	African LSA 60K A UP Aurignacian <i>(35K)</i>
				<u>Magdalenian</u> B 15K-10K
				Epipaleolithic 8K

Notes:

- 1) Each column represents an 'ERA' of the Paleolithic as defined by its respective technological mode: Australopithecine, Oldowan, Early Paleolithic, Middle Paleolithic, Upper Paleolithic.
- 2) Key species in hominid evolution are indicated in italics with their rough dates under the name of each technological era. Please note that a species emerges and carries the previous era's technological mode for some time before innovating the technological mode with which it is customarily associated.
- 3) An era may have 'PHASES' identified by roman numerals: **I**, **II**, **III**
- 4) Each phase has two 'STAGES', identified as **A** and **B**.
- 5) The **B** stage is often viewed as the 'classic' period that gives an overall phase its distinguishing name.
- 6) Each phase has a chronological midpoint, which appears to roughly reflect an innovation 'peak' of that phase, indicated by italicized date.