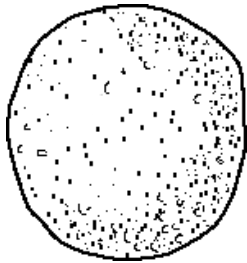


# Earliest Stone Toolkits

Ancient human ancestors were making stone tools by at least 2.6 million years ago. The earliest style of toolmaking was called Oldowan! These tools were likely used to crack open nuts, carve wood, dig, and process animal skin. Here are some examples of Oldowan tools:



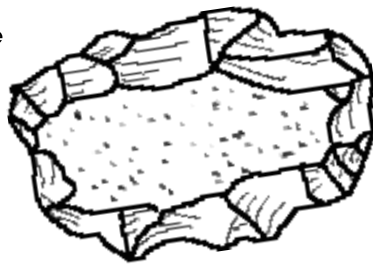
Hammerstone



Flake Scraper



Flake



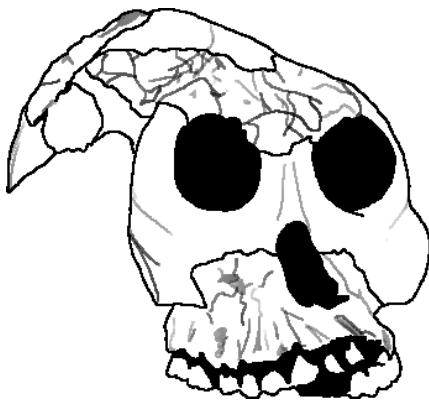
Core Scraper



Bifacial Chopper

## Who Made Oldowan Tools?

Scientists believe that many different species of ancient humans, called hominins, made Oldowan tools, including *Australopithecus garhi*, *Australopithecus boisei*, and *Homo habilis*, whose fossils you see below. Did you know that *Homo habilis* is nicknamed "The Handy Man"?



*Australopithecus garhi*

**Age:** 2.6–2.5 million years

**Location:** Ethiopia



*Homo habilis*

**Age:** 2.4–1.4 million years

**Location:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania



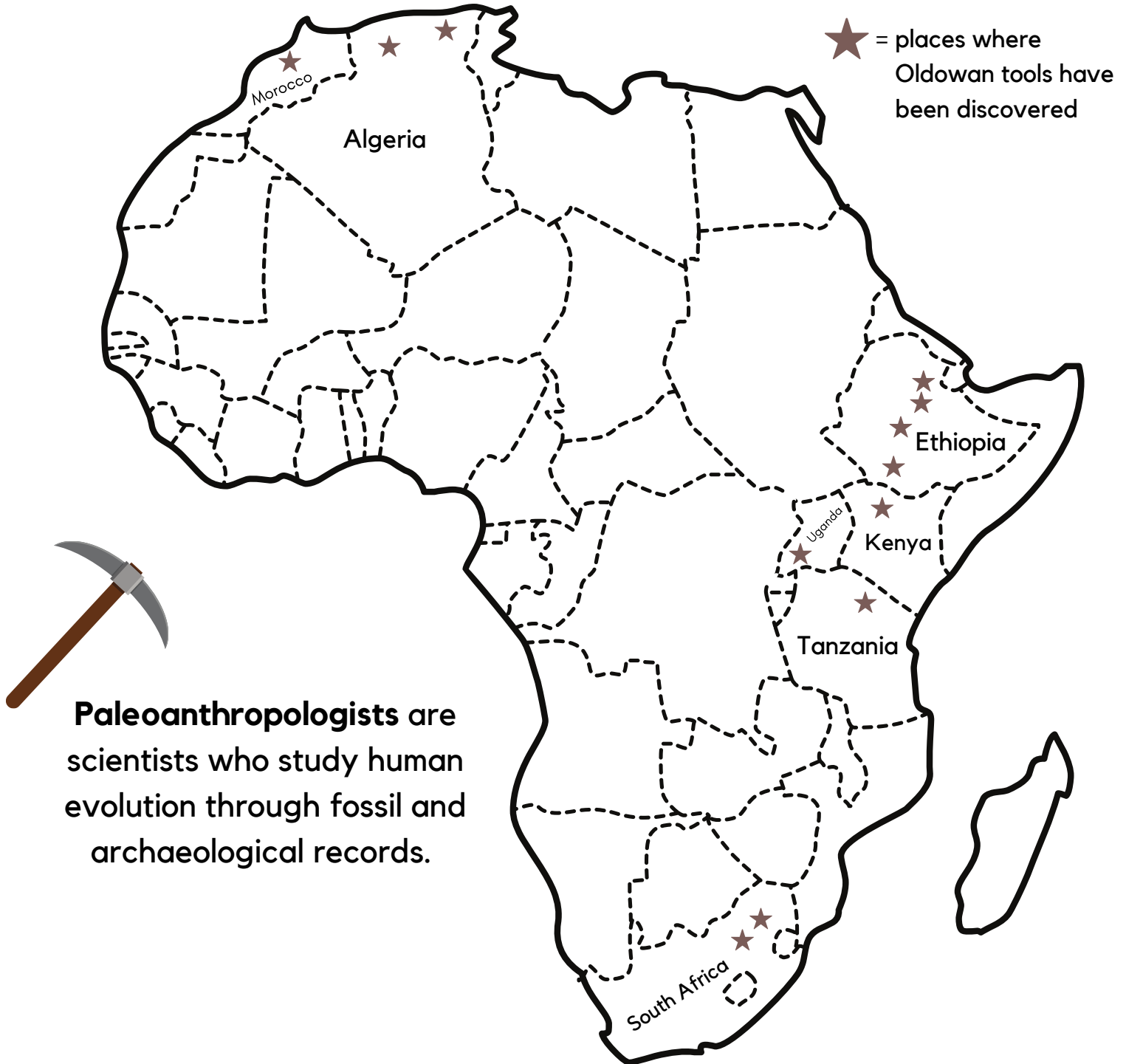
*Australopithecus boisei*

**Age:** 2.3–1.2 million years

**Location:** Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Malawi

# Where Are Oldowan Tools Found?

Paleoanthropologists have found Oldowan tools in over **20** different places throughout Africa! Look at the map below to see some of the sites and countries where these tools have been discovered.



**Paleoanthropologists** are scientists who study human evolution through fossil and archaeological records.

**Learn More At:** [humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/stone-tools](https://humanorigins.si.edu/evidence/behavior/stone-tools)