Making Tools
What improvements did early humans make to their tools as they migrated?

The first tools were very simple—primarily spears and stone blades. Spears have been found with the earliest human remains. The first examples were simple sharpened sticks. Over time, they evolved to a fire-hardened stick, and eventually developed into a stick with stone blades attached to them. The improvement of tools shows the development of early humans' problem solving and reasoning abilities.

Stone blades appeared in the Paleolithic age, around 40,000 years ago, and were perfected over the next 10,000 years, particularly by the Paleo-Indians of North America. Flint and obsidian were the most common stones used to create blades, and archaeologists have found stone blades that are still sharp after 30,000 years. Stone chisels allowed early humans to cut and carve bone into tools.

Long slivers of bone were carved out to form eyed needles, which allowed for tailored clothing. Larger pieces of bone were fashioned into barbed hooks, which could be used in hunting and fishing. Early humans also used chisels to carve antlers into wedge-shaped tools. These wedges could be used to create long thin pieces of bone that could be used for spears. The improved construction of these tools shows
sophistication in the processes of the hunter-gatherers. These new tools were designed specifically for certain purposes. The tools also show a great degree of consistency in their construction throughout a variety of sites. This suggests that information was being shared across groups.