In this worksheet you will make inferences about how people made and used tools.

Early Tools

Part A
Look at the pictures of the tools on Overhead Transparency 2 and read the descriptions below. Then write A by the statements that refer to the awl, H by the statements that refer to the harpoon, and S by the statements that refer to the sickle. Some statements may apply to more than one tool.

The Awl
Prehistoric people made clothes from animal hides. To attach two pieces of hide together, they poked holes into the hides and threaded gut-string laces through the holes. To make small holes in the hides without tearing them, they used an awl, like this one. The point of this awl is made of metal and the handle is made of bone. The handle made the awl easier to grip. It also gave the person using the tool more leverage, so he or she could easily punch holes in tough hides.

The Harpoon
This bone tool was used for hunting. The jagged edges serve as barbs that stick in the flesh of the prey. This bone tool is about eight inches long. To give them more leverage, people might have lashed the harpoon to a longer wooden stick. Note the groove down the middle of the harpoon, where the stick might have been attached.

The Sickle
This curved stone tool has a sharp inner edge. People used this tool to cut tough plant stems, for example, when harvesting grains. Many prehistoric sickles show signs of wear; their cutting edges are shiny and dull.

1. _______ This tool was used primarily by hunters.
2. _______ This tool was used primarily by farmers.
3. _______ This tool was important for making clothes.
4. _______ Making this tool required the use of other tools.
5. _______ People could have used this tool to catch fish.
6. _______ People could have used this tool to construct a tent.
7. _______ People could have used this tool to clear a path in thick brush.
8. _______ This tool was a conscious work of art because of how it is decorated.

Part B
Rank the three tools in order of age from oldest to most recent. Write a few sentences explaining why you ranked the tools as you did. What features make some tools more advanced than others?