

# Tools and pottery

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

The Southern African Farmers knew that working the land by hand was hard work and so they needed tools to make work easier and faster.

Around 1700 to 2000 years ago, during the Iron Age, these Farmers discovered metal ores, and learnt how to extract the metal from them.

The men would gather as many of these metal ores, mainly containing copper and iron and smelt them into a solid lump of metal.

Then they would take this lump of metal to the local male blacksmith. He would then smelt it down in a hot fire or furnace. The furnace was kept as hot as possible to make the metal smelt quickly so that it could be worked and shaped. This was done with the use of bellows made from animal skins.

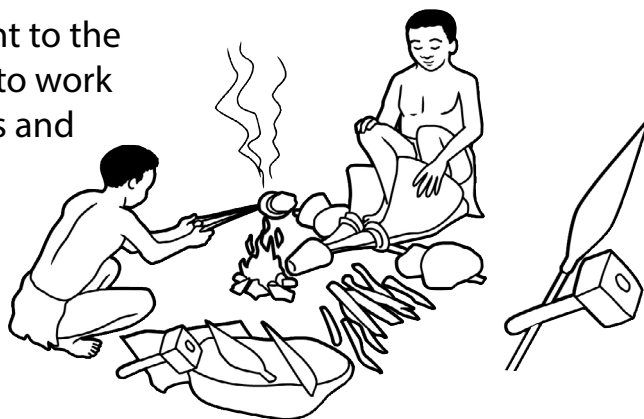
Once the metal was hot and malleable, the blacksmith would take it out of the fire and hammer and shape it into a tool by the process called forging.

Not only were tools made from these metals, but also weapons and jewellery if there was enough metal to go around.

The types of tools made, were very important to the farmers. They needed strong axes and hoes to work the land, and the men needed knives, spears and arrowheads for weaponry.

The introduction of pottery was also very important. They served many uses. How many can you think of?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



Archaeologists often find broken pieces of pottery when they are excavating. The differences in the pottery styles have helped archaeologists tell one group from another as each chiefdom would have different features or patterns in their style of pottery decorations. This also helps them understand how these people moved around as well as the trading and links between different chiefdoms.

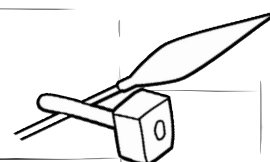
The women made pottery with clay and would fire them in the fire. Pots were not the only things made with clay. Sometimes they made masks. The most famous

masks are called the Lydenburg Heads and were found in the Mpumalanga province. They can now be seen in the South African Museum in Cape Town.

Each communities has its own kind of markings on their pots, but sometimes, archaeologists find pots from different communities in other communities' kraals and homes. Why do you think this could be?

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer the questions below



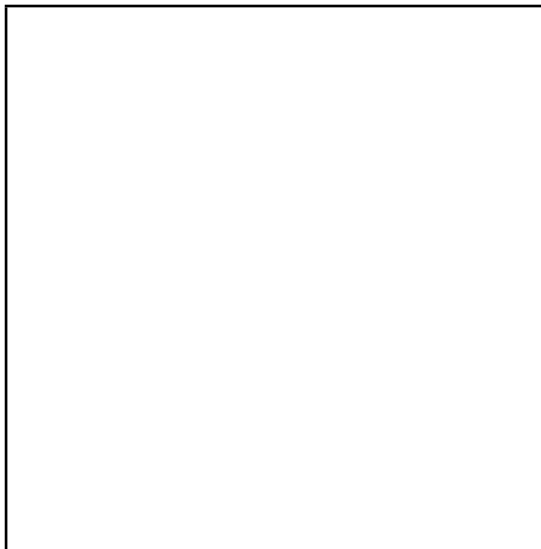
1. Using your knowledge from the text, complete the following paragraph:  
The African farmers then discovered that \_\_\_\_\_ certain rocks or ore gave them a stronger material for them to use for tools.  
These ore were \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.  
When someone works with metals through smelting them, they are called a \_\_\_\_\_.  
How were iron tools made?  
First, they \_\_\_\_\_, then they \_\_\_\_\_ in a \_\_\_\_\_ and then they took it to the \_\_\_\_\_ who \_\_\_\_\_ again and then \_\_\_\_\_.
2. What else do you think they would have made with the iron and copper ore? (3)
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
  - \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who made the pottery in the Farming community? (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How are archaeologists able to tell the origins of the pottery they find? (2)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What does firing pottery do? (1)  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do you think 'Iron Age' is a good name for this time in history? Why do you think so? (2)

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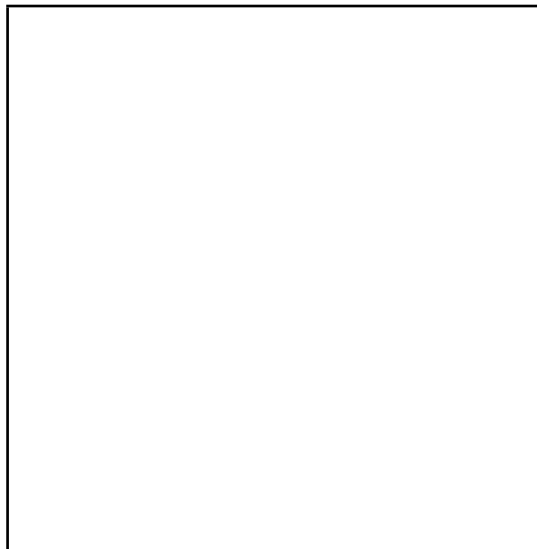
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7. In the space below, draw a cartoon of how the Farmers made their metals tools. Under each block write one sentence describing the picture. (3 x 4)



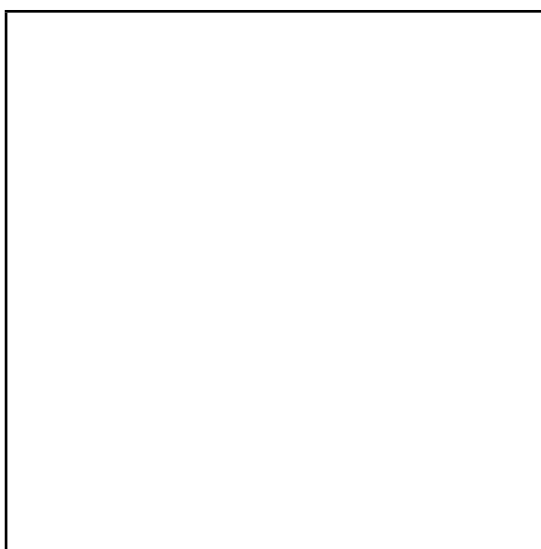
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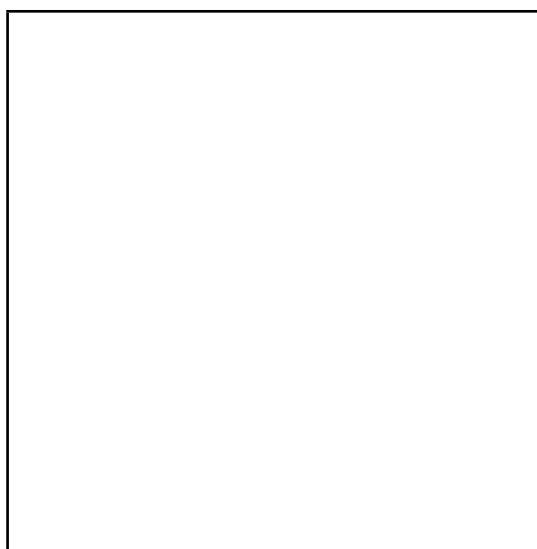
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# Answers

The introduction of pottery was also very important. They served many uses. How many can you think of? **Learners' answer**

- **Storage**
- **Carrying water**
- **Cooking**

Each communities has its own kind of markings on their pots, but sometimes, archaeologists find pots from different communities in other communities' kraals and homes. Why do you think this could be?

- **There could have been intermarriage between communities.**
- **The communities could have traded pots for other goods.**

**Answer the questions below:**

1. Using your knowledge from the text, complete the following paragraph:  
The African farmers then discovered that **smelting** certain rocks or ore gave them a stronger material for them to use for tools. These ore were **copper** and **iron**. When someone works with metals through smelting them, they are called a **blacksmith**. How were iron tools made? First, they **gather as much metal ore as they can find**, then they **smelt the ore** in a **fire or furnace** and then they took it to the **blacksmith** who **smelts the ore** again and then **shapes it into tools**.
2. What else do you think they would have made with the iron and copper ore? (3)
  - **Jewellery**
  - **Ornaments**
  - **Weapons**
3. Who made the pottery in the Farming community? (1)  
**The women.**
4. How are archaeologists able to tell the origins of the pottery they find? (2)  
**Each community has its own special patterns and markings on the pottery.**
5. What does firing pottery do? (1)  
**The firing of the pottery makes it hard.**
6. Do you think 'Iron Age' is a good name for this time in history? Why do you think so? (2)  
**Learners' answer. Yes/No and an explanation, e.g. No as they did not just use iron but other metals as well.**