



Unit 5 Tools

Task 11

Announcer: “A journey into the distant past”. Listen and write a short summary for your portfolio.

Narrator: Did you know that tools have already been manufactured and used by the human race for more than two million years? During the Stone Age many of the tools, which are still in use today, were developed such as: simple saws, hand drills and scratching tools. In ancient times, tools were made of bronze but later on, approximately 700 years B.C., they were made of iron. Copper, bronze, iron, gold and silver are metals used for making jewelry, tools and weapons. Metal and metal-working has changed the world.

Thus, a story like this could have happened: 9000 years before Christ ... somewhere in the Middle East, a group of people built a pile of wood and put stones around it to define it. Maybe they were celebrating something. The flames blazed long and hot, while they danced around the fire.

The next morning, a man poked in the ashes of the fire to fan the flames again. Suddenly, he was staring into the ashes discovering something he had never seen before: shiny pearls of metal – from the blue and green stones of the copper ores malachite and azurite, which were used for jewelry, turned into copper in the glowing embers. The man’s curiosity was aroused.

He examined the properties of the object in the fire more carefully and he discovered that by pounding the softened beads of metal with a stone, he could form shapes that became hard and strong when they cooled down. Then he started thinking: “How can I use this new knowledge. What can I make from this new hard material? What do I need?”

He probably made a needle from the first small beads of metal, to sew skins together for clothes and shelter as it would be finer and stronger than his bone needles.

Later, as man learned to melt more metals from various rocks, from hotter fires, metal knives would have replaced their bone and flint ones. Metal working had begun.