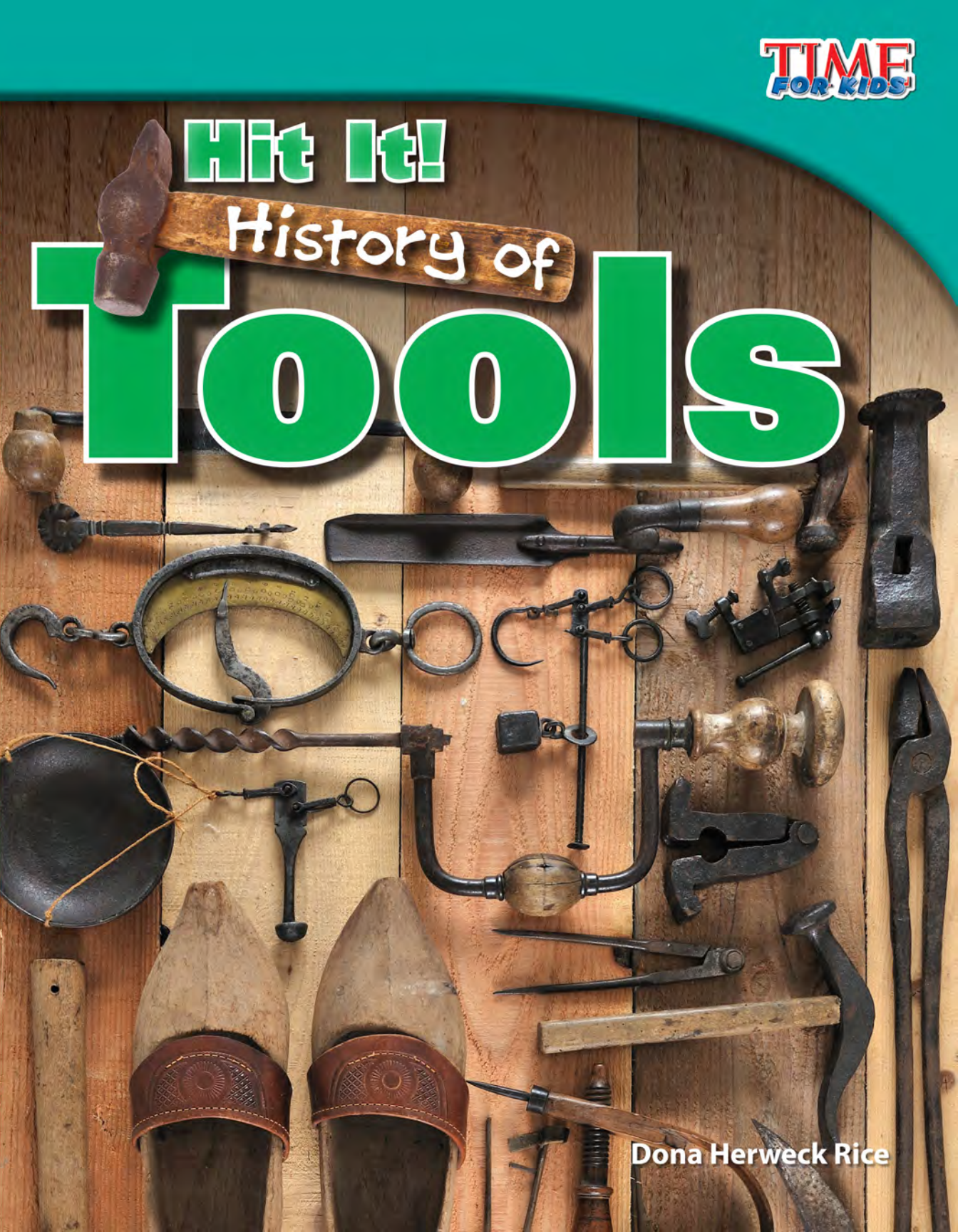
TIME FOR KIDS

# Hit It! History of Tools



Dona Herweck Rice

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# Dig In!

She picks up the sticks. She looks at them closely and thinks about what to do. She points the sticks down and works to grab her food. It is hard to do, but she keeps trying. Then, finally, success! She puts the food to her mouth and eats.

But the sticks are not chopsticks, and she is not human. She is a chimpanzee. She uses the sticks to scoop up termites for her dinner. The tools make her life a little easier.

Throughout time, people have made tools to do many different things, including to eat. But it is amazing to think that other animals use tools, too!



A chimpanzee eats termites using a long stick.



## Chopsticks (筷子)

Chopsticks are used like **tongs** to pick up food or to push it into a person's mouth straight from a bowl. They were first used in China around 5,000 years ago. Along with knives, they are among the earliest man-made eating **utensils** we know.



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# The Nuts and Bolts

What is the point of making and using tools? Tools get the job done, whatever it is.

The brain is amazing. There is not much the brain can imagine that it cannot figure out how to make happen—no matter how impossible it seems at first. For example, long ago in ancient Egypt, people built enormous pyramids that still stand. How did they do it? After all, they did not have the modern cranes, bulldozers, and other powerful **equipment** we have now. But they used their brains to figure out the right tools, **materials**, and equipment. We see the results of their work today rising from the desert sand.



Ancient Egyptians used tools to create the towering pyramids we see today.



## Tool or Equipment?

What's the difference? Equipment is something used for a specific purpose. For example, a helmet is a piece of equipment used to protect the head. Tools are things that are made or used to do work. A hammer is a tool that is made to pound nails.



Today cranes are used to build buildings even taller than the pyramids.

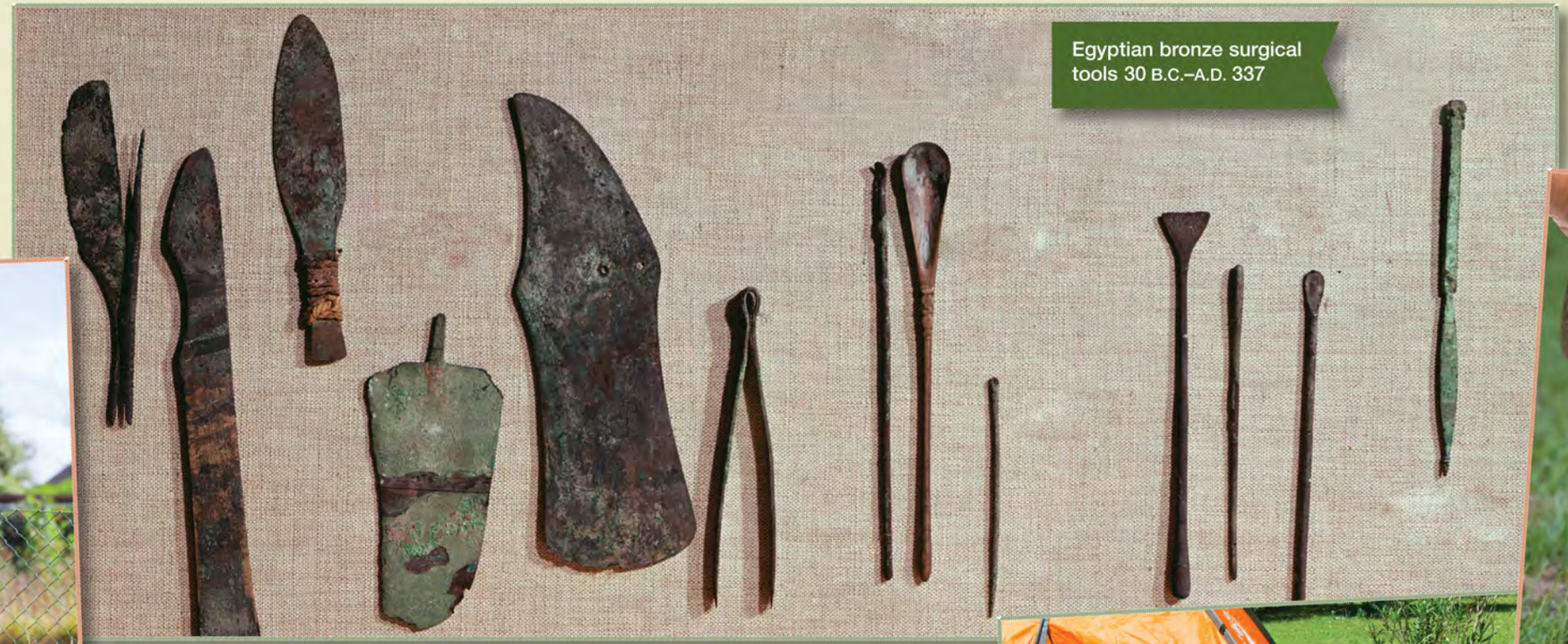


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Have people always used tools? Yes, they have, in one way or another. At first, tools were simply found objects that were used to do certain jobs. Think of the stick used by the chimpanzee to get food. People have always used these kinds of tools.

In fact, people still use the things they find as tools. Have you ever camped and needed to pitch a tent? It is too hard to drive the stakes into the ground with your bare hands. Sometimes, people do not think to bring along a hammer when they camp. So, what can you use to pound a stake when a hammer is not available? How about a rock? Rocks were some of the very first tools, and they still come in handy!



Egyptian bronze surgical tools 30 B.C.–A.D. 337



From around 10,000 B.C. to 2,500 B.C., people made tools from stones. This period is called the **Stone Age**.



