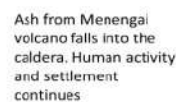




Perched on the western shoulder of the Great Rift Valley, Kiplombe began as a broad shield volcano, built by repeated lava flows from fissures. A major collapse happened approximately 2.5 million years ago, creating a vast caldera that became a natural archive for both the earth and early humans.

Since then, the caldera has continued to capture volcanic ash from nearby volcanoes, including Menengai, which erupted about 36,000 years ago.



Holocene



- **The Kiplombe Cave:** Formed within layers of volcanic ash, this cave is a site of active leaching where sodium carbonate (salt) accumulates over time. Today, it serves as a vital salt lick for local wildlife.
- **The Toolmaker's Legacy:** Because the caldera preserved these layers so well, archaeologists have recovered a continuous record of human innovation—from Oldowan choppers (1.8 Million years ago) to sophisticated Acheulean hand axes (1.0 Million years ago) and Middle Stone Age tools.

