

Chapter- 2

Early Humans- Hunters and Gatherers

STUDY NOTES

HUNTERS AND GATHERERS

- Why did the hunters and Gatherers move from place to place?
 - In search of food
 - To follow the movements of the animals
 - In search of different kinds of plants
 - In search of water
 - How do we know about these people?

STONE AGE

- When early humans used mainly stone tools is known as Stone Age.
 - Palaeolithic Age Or The Old Stone age (Around 500,000- 10,000 BCE)
 - Mesolithic Age Or The Middle stone Age (Around 10,000 – 8,000 BCE)
 - Neolithic Age Or The New stone Age (8000 – 4000 BCE)

PALAEOLITHIC PERIOD

Changing your Tomorrow ▲

- Palaeolithic Period or Old stone Age (around 500,000-10,000 BCE)

Features of the Palaeolithic Period

- Food Gatherers
- Shelter and Clothing
- Tools making Process
- Discovery of Fire
- Art

The word Palaeolithic is taken from the Greek word Palaeo means 'old' and lithos means 'stone' . So it is also called as Old Stone Age.

- In this age humans were nomads and food gatherers.
- Shelter and clothing:- Man in the old stone age lived in natural caves or in trees. The caves protected from cold weather.
- They used animal skins, barks of trees and leaves to make their clothes.
- Tools and Weapons:-They made simple & crude stone tools. Various kinds of implements like Knives, axes, spears, stone hammers, scrappers and digging tools have been found.
- Most of the stone tools were made of Flint as it chips easily and is convenient to make.

TOOL MAKING TECHNIQUES

- Stone on stones:- The pebble from which the tool was to be made was held in one hand. Another stone was used as a hammer was held other hand. The second stone was used to strike off flakes from the first, till the required shape was obtained.

DISCOVERY OF FIRE

- It was one of the most important discovery by the early man. It is assumed that fire must have been discovered by accident.
- Man noticed that a hard stone struck with another stone produced sparks which lighted fire.
- Ash has been found in one caves at Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.
- Some of the ways in which early humans used fire:-i) as a source of light ii) to cook meat or nuts iii) To scare away animals.

ART

- Early humans painted on the walls caves. Such paintings have been found inside caves in Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. These paintings show wild animals and about the life of early humans. They were drawn with accuracy and skill.
- The colours used are mainly white and red at certain places green and yellow.

INVENTION OF WHEEL

- It is one of the most important invention during Old Stone Age.
- Early wheels were not like the smoothly rounded ones used today.
- They were much more uneven in shape with rough edges.
- It was cut out of tree trunks.

MAJOR PALAEOLOGIC SITES

- The Palaeolithic Sites have been found in Hunsgi and Kurnool near Krishna river. At Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh natural caves and rock shelters have been found near Narmada valley.
- At Patne in Maharastra, plenty of ostrich shells have been found, some of which are decorated with designs, and beads were also made out of them.

- These were called as habitation – cum- factory sites.

MESOLITHIC PERIOD (10,000- 8000 BCE)

- In Greek the word meso means Middle thus this is the Middle Stone Age. This was the period between the Palaeolithic and Neolithic period.
- Sources are tools, cave , rock paintings and burial sites.
- Changing life styles:- The climate changed and it became warm and dry. The climate changes made possible for human beings to move to new areas.
- Learnt to grow crops and tame animals. The dog was the first animal to be tamed.
- Learnt to build houses with the help of sticks, twigs and mud.

TOOLS AND IMPLEMENTS

- Microliths:- The smaller and sharper tools found at Mesolithic sites. It had sharp edges and were less than 3cm in size. They were flint blades were used to provide the tips of arrows.
- Tools made up of bone, wood or the tusks and horns of animals.
- Mesolithic Sites found in India
- Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, north- eastern India, Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka.

A CASE STUDY OF HUNSGI

- Stone Age settlements dating from 1. 5 to 0.7 million years ago.
- Stone Age settlements in Central India and southern parts of the Eastern India.
- Archeological sites have been found in Hunsgi.
- The artifacts found are:- hand- Axes, cleavers, scrappers and knives .

SETTLEMENTS IN THE DECCAN REGION

- The Deccan Plateau is one of the oldest plateaus of the Indian sub-continent.
- Climate of the Deccan Regions
- Food Resources and availability of right type of stone
- Oldest site discovered in Hunsgi and Baichbal Valleys in Karnataka
- Preferred the semi- humid regions of the Deccan.
- Perennial water source in the form of springs, raw material (limestone & granite)

- Variety of plants and animals

NEOLITHIC AGE (8000-4000 BCE)

- The word neo means new in Greek ,the last period of the stone age
- Important period of the stone age.
- Humans changed from hunters and gatherers to farmers and herders

CHALCOLITHIC AGE (4000-2000BCE)

- Chalkos means 'copper' and lithos means stone
- Implements made of both stone and copper
- Inventions:-the plough, wheeled cart and the sailed boat.

