

Chapter 2. On the Trail of the Earliest People

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: The inscription found in Kandahar gives us an important message, what is that?

Ans: It gives us the evidence that the Mauryan Empire was extended upto Afghanistan

Q2: The Mesolithic age witnessed _____ changes

Ans: Environmental

Q3: Mesolithic age is also known as middle stone age. True/False

Ans: True

Q4: Name the place where Natural caves and rock shelters were found.

Ans: Vindhya and Deccan plateau

Q5: What material was used to make Huts in Palaeolithic Age?

Ans: Wood

Q6: On what surface People of the Stone Age made rock paintings?

Ans: wall of the caves

Q7: Name the shelter of early men

Ans: caves

Q8: Natural caves in the Vindhya region are found in the _____ valley.

Ans: Narmada

Q9: What is the full form of CE?

Ans: Madhya Pradesh

Q10: Early man who lived on the banks of the rivers went in search of water during the dry season. True/False

Ans: True

Q11: How can we say that the people of Kurnool caves were familiar with fire?

Ans: as we have found traces of ashes at various sites

Q12: Name the tool used by early men to stitch their clothes.

Ans: stone tools

Q13: Name the material used to make clothes of early men.

Ans: animal skin

Q14: What was the advantage of clothes made from animal skin?

Ans: it protect and kept the body at a suitable temperature during the winter and summer season.

Q15: Perennial lakes and rivers have water_____ the year.

Ans: Throughout

Q16: What was the mode of transport for the people of Palaeolithic Age?

Ans: Foot, there was no other mode of transport

Q17: Name the place where Ostrich egg shells were found in India in the Palaeolithic Age.

Ans: Patne in Maharashtra

Q18: At which place Hunsgi is located in the present day?

Ans: Karnataka

Q19: Why is Hunsgi famous in the history?

Ans: A number of early Palaeolithic sites were found here

Q20: What does the rock paintings of Madhya Pradesh and Southern Uttar Pradesh depicts?



Ans: animals and hunting scenes

Q21: Give some examples of Habitation Sites.

Ans: Caves and Rock shelters

Q22: Scraping the bark off trees by early man was done by _____.

Ans: stone tools

Q23: State reason why early man had to be alert and quick on his feet.

Ans: Animals were fast and alert and in order to catch them the early man had to be alert and quick on his feet.

Q24: Name the place in Madhya Pradesh where a natural shelter of early man is located.

Ans: Bhimbetka

Q25: Name the earliest stage of human civilization.

Ans: Palaeolithic Age

Q26: What percentage of human history does the Palaeolithic period covers?

Ans: 99 percent

Q27: To catch fish and birds for food, the hunter-gatherers needed to be very _____ and _____.

Ans: Alert and quick

Q28: Name the material used to make Handles of spears and arrows.

Ans: bones and wood

Q29: Majority of the rivers that flow in southern India are seasonal. True/False

Ans: true

Q30: Why Majority of the rivers that flow in southern India are seasonal in nature?

Ans: because they depend upon monsoon for water and do not have glaciers as a source of water

Q31: What do you mean by Stone on stone?

Ans: tool making technique

Q32: What was the name of place where tools were made?

Ans: factory site

Q33: List One important change that the Mesolithic age witnessed.

Ans: Making of small tools

Q34: Name the place where We have found large amounts of limestone tools in India.

Ans: Hunsgi

Q35: Name the Neolithic sites in India.

Ans: Chirand ,Burzahom, Mahagara and Hallur

Q36: What was the use of stone tools by Early man?

Ans: for making handles of bone and wood weapons.

Q37: What was the Pressure flaking technique?

Ans: Pressure flaking technique was one of the methods adopted by the early man to make tools apart from the stone on stone method.

Q38: Places where remains of things that were used, made and left by the early man are called _____.

Ans: Sites

Q39: Define Factory sites.

Ans: Places where stones were found and tools were made.

Q40: List the most important means of obtaining food for the earlier people.

Ans: Gathering plant produce

Q41: What was the important method adopted by the early man to make tools?

Ans: Pressure flaking

Q42: The creative talent of the early man can be seen by the drawings painted with skill and _____.

Ans: Accuracy

Q43: Hunter gatherers collected plants that were _____.

Ans: Edible

Q44: Gathering plant produce was an extremely important means of obtaining food.
True/False

Ans: True

Q45: Into how many parts The Palaeolithic Age is sub divided?

Ans: Three

Q46: Name the three parts into which the Palaeolithic Age is sub divided.

Ans: Lower Paleolithic Middle Paleolithic Upper Paleolithic

Q47: In which period, Microliths were used by early man?

Ans: Mesolithic period

Q48: People moved to different parts in search of different kinds of _____.

Ans: Plants

Q49: Name the cave, which shows the evidence of the use of fire.

Ans: Kurnool cave

Q50: What was the source of colours used in the cave paintings?

Ans: Iron ore and charcoal

Short Q&A:

Q1: Write short notes on Mesolithic age.

Ans: Mesolithic age is also known as middle stone age. This period of the human history witnessed the changes in the climatic conditions. The temperature increased and allowed the growth of plants. The number of animals also increased with the increase in the grasslands.

Q2: Explain Stone on stone technique.

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

Q3: What made early man to Start domesticating animals?

Ans: Due to change in climate conditions, there was an increase in the number of animals and the hunters started following them, which helped the early man to start domesticating animals.

Q4: Write about Bhimbetka rock shelters.

Ans: The "Bhimbetka rock shelters" exhibit the earliest traces of human life in India. Its stone age rock paintings are approximately 9,000 years old. These rock paintings throw some light on the life and activities of the people who inhabited these shelters.

Q5: Define Microliths.

Ans: Microliths were the tiny or small stone tools. They were marked for their fine edge. They were used as scrapers, chisels, etc.

Q6: How did early man learn herding & rearing animals?

Ans: When the hunters followed the animals for hunting, they might have learnt about their food habits and their breeding seasons. It is likely that this helped people to start thinking about herding & rearing these animals themselves.

Q7: How did the discovery of fire help the early man?

Ans: Fire could have been used for many purposes:

- a. As a source of light & heat.
- b. To cook meat.



c. To scare away animals.

Q8: How were stone tools made?

Ans: Stone tools were probably made using two different techniques.

- a. The first is called stone on stone; here, the pebble from which the tool was to be made (also called the core) was held in one hand. Another stone, which was used as a hammer was held in the other hand. The second stone was used to strike off flakes from the first till the required shape was obtained.
- b. Pressure flaking: Here the core was placed on a firm surface. The hammer stone was used to strike on a piece of bone or stone core to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools.

Q9: What are sites? Where are they located?

Ans: Sites are places where the remains of past cultures (tools, pots, rock paintings, buildings etc.) are found. These spots could be the surface of the earth, under the earth, or sometimes even under water.

Q10: What are habitations – cum – factory sites?

Ans: Habitation - cum - factory sites are the places where blocks of stones, tools that were made and perhaps discarded because they were not perfect, and chips of waste stone were left behind. It is believed that, sometimes, people lived here for longer spells of time.

Q11: What are habitation sites? Why did people choose them? Give examples.

Ans: Habitation sites were places where people lived. These include caves and rock shelters. People chose these natural caves because they provided shelter from the rain, heat and wind. E.g. Bhimbetka (in present Madhya Pradesh) ,Chirand (in present Bihar).

Q12: Why did the communities of early man emerge on the banks of rivers?

Ans: Water is found in rivers, lakes and streams. While most of the rivers are perennial others are seasonal. People, plants and animals need water to survive. This is the main reason that communities of early man emerge near sources of water.

Q13: What is a 'Palaeolithic period'?

Ans: The term 'Palaeolithic' has been derived from two Greek words, 'palaeo' meaning old and 'lithos' meaning stone.



1. During this period stone tools were predominantly used by early man.
2. This period extends from 2 million years ago to about 12,000 years ago.
3. The palaeolithic period is divided into three stages: the Lower, Middle and Upper Palaeolithic. This long span of time covers 99% of human history.

Q14: How were the stone tools made?

Ans: Stone tools were probably made using two different techniques that is stone on stone and pressure flaking.

Q15: When did the grasslands develop?

Ans: Around 12,000 years ago due to relatively warm conditions there was a major change in the climate of the world. This led to the development of the grasslands.

Q16: How did the changing environment affect the life of the early people?

Ans: Changes in the environment affected the people in following ways: Change in the environment led to the development of grasslands. As a result, the number of animals that survived on grass, i.e., deer, antelope, goat, sheep and cattle increased. Those who hunted these animals now started following them. They learnt about their food habits and their breeding seasons. This must have led to the domestication of animals by these people. Fishing also became important. During this time wheat, barley and rice grew naturally in different parts of the subcontinent. Men, women and children probably collected these grains as food and learnt where they grew and when they ripened. This must have led to the start of agriculture.

Q17: Explain the term 'hunter-gatherers'.

Ans: The name 'hunter-gatherers' comes from the way in which the people in the early period got their food. Generally, they hunted wild animals, caught fish and birds, gathered fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves, stalks and eggs. In the early days, gathering plant produce was an extremely important means of obtaining food.

Q18: What do cave paintings usually depict? What information do they give us?

Ans: Many cave and rock paintings were found in India. Some of the best examples are from Madhya Pradesh and southern Uttar Pradesh. Paintings were made in bright colours. These colours were made from rocks and naturally available minerals. The paintings depict various activities of early man and tell us about their methods of hunting, fishing, collecting honey, religious practices etc. These paintings were drawn with great accuracy and skill.

Q19: What are Microliths? How did Mesolithic man use Microliths?



Ans: Stone tools found during the Mesolithic period are called Microliths. They were generally tiny in size. The Mesolithic man probably stuck these stones on to the handles of bones or wood to make tools such as saws and sickles. These tools were used for digging the ground and stitching clothes.

Q20: Mention the archaeological sources that tell us about man's life in the early period.

Ans: Sources found like, tools, caves and rock paintings tell us about the eating habits of early man, material used by him during that time and the activities performed. Tools: The earliest tools were made of stone, bone and wood. They were used to cut meat and bone, scrape bark from trees for hunting, for stitching clothes etc. Caves: People lived in caves and rock shelters as they provided shelter from the rain, heat and wind. Rock paintings: The early man made paintings in the caves and rock shelters. These paintings were drawn with great accuracy and skill.

Q21: How were factory sites different from habitation-cum-factory sites?

Ans: Factory sites were places where stone tools were found and made stone tools by the people. While sites where people made stone tools and lived for a longer spell of time are called habitation-cum-factory sites. At these sites, good quality of stone was easily available

Q22: What are the important features of the paintings drawn on the rock shelters of Bhimbetka?

Ans: The rock shelters of Bhimbetka are decorated with picture writings, depicting the life and times of pre-historic cave dwellers. These paintings mirror the difficulties of the native man's struggle with life as also his accomplishments. These paintings also show wild animals drawn with great accuracy. Religious symbols those were popular with these pre-historic artists also adorn the walls of these shelters. The paintings are often superimposed, which reveals that the surface was used by different people at different times.

Q23: Why was it difficult to hunt animals and gather plant produce in the early times?

Ans: The early man faced a lot of problems while hunting animals and gathering plant produce. Some of them are as follows:

- Many of the animals that were hunted were strong and ran faster than man. To hunt these animals or catch fish and birds, early man had to be alert and swift.
- To collect plant produce, complete knowledge of plants was essential. Early man had to have the basic knowledge about which plants or parts of plants were edible, which were poisonous.
- They were required to find out about the seasons when the fruits ripen.



Q24: Did division of labour exist during the prehistoric times?

Ans: The early man was a hunter and a gatherer. He also made stone tools and painted on cave walls. Till now it is not really known whether division of labour existed during this time. However, there are at least two presumptions:

- It is presumed that both men and women might have done many of these things together.
- At the same time, it is also possible that women did some tasks while others were done only by men.

Long Q&A:

Q1: Hunter-gatherers used stone tools. Explain what these tools were used for? Give reasons.

Ans: Stone tools were used :

1. To cut meat & bone.
2. Scrape bark (from trees) & hides (animal skins).
3. Chop fruit & roots.
4. Some stones may have been attached to handles of bone or wood, to make spears & arrows for hunting.
5. To chop wood for firewood.
6. To dig the ground to collect edible roots.
7. Stitching clothes made out of animal skin.

Q2: Why did hunter- gatherers move from place to place? Give at least four reasons.

Ans: The reasons behind the moving of hunters-gatherers are :

- If they had stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant & animal resources. Therefore they would have had to go elsewhere in search of food.
- Animals move from place to place - either in search of smaller prey, or, in the case of deer and wild cattle, in search of grass and leaves. That is why those who hunted them had to follow their movements.
- Plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons. So people may have moved from season to season in search of different kinds of plants.
- People, plants and animals need water to survive; people living on river banks would have had to go in search of water during the dry seasons as some rivers are seasonal while others are perennial (with water throughout the year.)

