

NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 2: Part-1 - ON THE TRAIL OF THE EARLIEST PEOPLE

Earliest People

2 million years ago → Hunter Gatherers - alert, quick → Edible plants

Reasons for movement

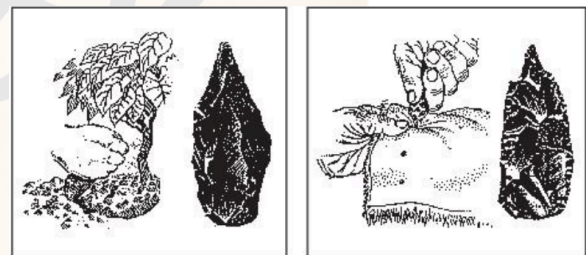
1. Avoid exhausting of resources
2. Man → animals → food, plants
3. Harvest at the right season
4. In search of water

Hunter gatherer's tools

- Stone, bone, wood
- Stone tools survived

Stone tools

- Cut meat, scrape wood, animal skins, chop fruits, roots
- Attached to handles of bone/wood
 - spears & arrows → hunting
 - axe → firewood



Sites found

- Located near water
- Tools, pots, buildings
- Buried

Factory sites

Stone tools made → factory site → longer stay
→ habitation-cum-factory site

Bhimbetka

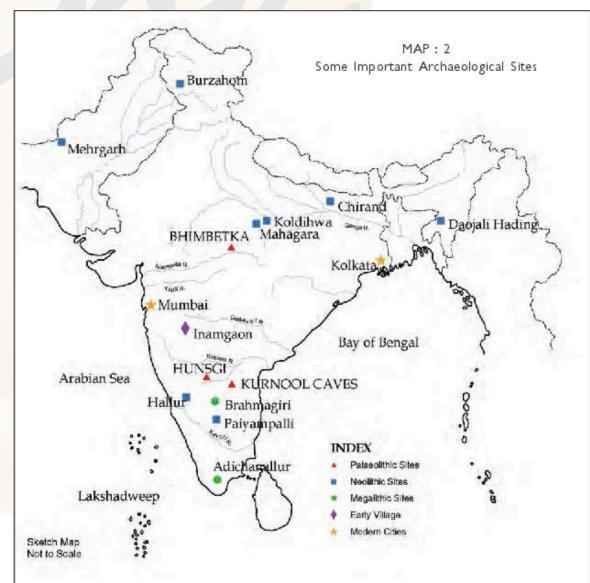
- Habitation site
- People lived in caves, rock shelter
- Shelter from rain, heat, wind

Natural caves

Vindhyas - Deccan Plateau → Narmada valley

Tool making techniques

Two types: Stone-on-Stone; Pressure Flaking



Kurnool caves

- Ashes found → use of fire
- Cook meat, scare animals

Environmental change

- 12000 years ago
- Major climate shift → warm conditions → increase in grass eating animals → hunted, learnt their habits, breeding season
- Animal rearing, fishing



Grain bearing grass

- Wheat, barley, rice
- Collected grains → Learnt where to plant → When they ripe → Learnt to grow on own



Palaeolithic Age

- Palaeo - old; Lithos - stone
- 2 million years ago - 12000 years ago
- Lower; Middle; Upper → 99% of Human history

Mesolithic Age

- Meso - middle; Lithos - stone
- 12000 years ago - 10000 years ago
- Environmental change
- Tiny stone tools - Microliths
- Stuck to handles of bones or wood → Saw, sickle



Neolithic Age

- Neo - new; Lithos - stone
- From 10000 years ago

Rock paintings

- Paintings on walls
- Madhya Pradesh, Southern Uttar Pradesh

Men & Women

- Work together
- Hunting, gathering, making tools, painting
- Only by or by women
- Different practice in different parts

Ostrich in India

- During Palaeolithic period
- Egg shells - Patne, Maharashtra
- Design engraved, beads

Hunsgi

- Early Palaeolithic sites
- Habitation-cum-factory sites
- Evidence of tool making
- Close to springs
- Limestone tools

