

NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 2: Part - 2 - FROM GATHERING TO GROWING FOOD

How early people became farmers?

- Observed: Where edible plants were found? → How seeds broke off stalks? → How seeds fell on ground? → How new plants sprouted?
- Protected plants from birds



How early people became herders?

- Tame animals by leaving food near shelters
- First tamed - wild ancestor of dog
- Encouraged gentle animals near their camps → sheep, goat, cattle, pigs
- Protected them from wild animals

Domestication

- Process of growing plants & looking after animals → Gradual process - Began 12000 years ago
- Earliest animals to be domesticated - sheep, goat



Storage of food

- Grain stored as both food and seed
- People made clay pots, wove baskets, dug pits into ground
- Animal rearing for food

Finding farmers & herders

- Most important Neolithic sites in North-west, East & South India
- Scientists study evidence of plants, animal bones
- Studied remains of burnt grain

Sites where evidence found

Sites	Evidence of
Mehrgarh	Wheat, barley, sheep, goat, cattle
Koldihwa	Rice, fragmented animal bones
Mahagara	Rice, cattle-hoof marks on clay surface
Gufkral	Wheat, lentil
Burzahom	Wheat, lentil, dog, cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo
Chirand	Wheat, green gram, barley, buffalo, ox
Hallur	Millet, cattle, sheep, goat, pig
Paiyampalli	Black gram, millet, cattle, sheep, pig

Did things change everything at once?

- Tools of Palaeolithic age continued to be made and used
- Men and women continued to hunt and gather food
- Elsewhere farming and herding adopted slowly

Burzahom

- Located in Kashmir
- Pit houses with steps
- Cooking hearths inside & outside
- Mortar & pestle - grinding grain
- Earthen pots - some decorated, storing things, cooking food
- Rice, wheat, lentil - part of diet
- Weaving cloth - cotton grown

What are tribes?

- Two-three generations live together in villages
- Most families related to each other
- Follow occupations like hunting, gathering, farming, herding, fishing
- Children → plants, small animals
- Women → farming
- Men → rearing, herding
- Women and men → clean animals, milking, pottery, build huts, tool making, weave baskets

Tribal culture

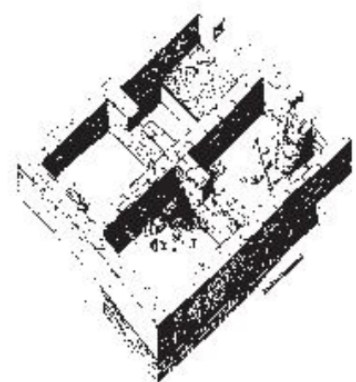
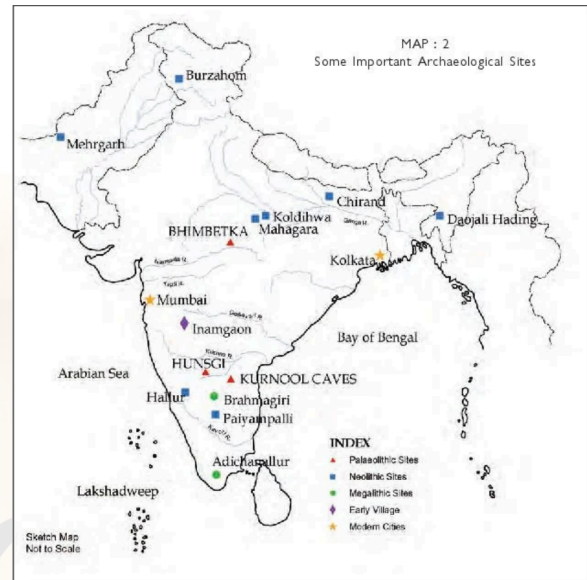
- Singing, dancing, decorating
- Some men → leaders → old/experienced; young/brave
- Old women respected for wisdom, experience
- Unique traditions → Own: language, music, stories, paintings, god and goddesses

What makes tribes different from other societies?

- Land, forests, grasslands and water regarded wealth of entire tribe
- Everybody shares and uses them together
- No sharp difference between rich and poor

Mehrgarh

- Near Bolan pass, Pakistan - route to Iran
- Grew barley, wheat
- Rear sheep, goats for the first time
- One of the earliest village
- Animal bones: deer, pig → sheep, goat → cattle



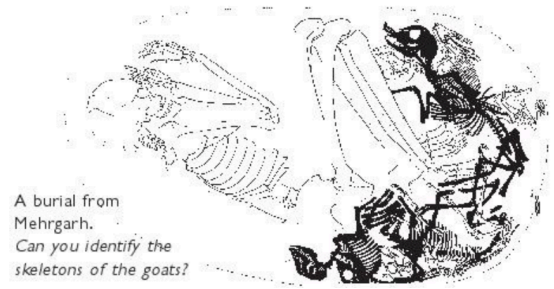
- Square/rectangular house found
- Life after death - burial arrangement

Daojali Hading

- Hills in Assam near Brahmaputra valley
- Close to route to China and Myanmar
- Stone tools - Mortar and pestle → people grew grain and prepared food
- Jadeite - stone from China
- Tools of fossil wood
- Pottery found

Levels

First → flat land → mound - discarded material, house debris



Book
Scribe