

New Terms

- ❑ The Palaeolithic Age : Period or the old Stone age
- ❑ The Mesolithic Age : Period or the Middle Stone Age
- ❑ The Neolithic Age : Period or the New Stone Age

It is believed that the earliest men were descendents of monkeys who gradually learnt to walk on their feet and use their hands to perform various tasks. To protect themselves from difficult and harsh surroundings, environment and wild animals, they made different kinds of tools and weapons. As their brain was more developed than the rest of the animals, they used it to improve their physical conditions.

Early man did not know how to make food so he roamed from place to place in search of food and security in groups. This was the arrangement in earliest societies. A group had some men, women and children who stayed together for their survival and security. The process of evolution of man has passed through various stages which can be understood through the development of tools and weapons. On this basis, anthropologists have divided the Stone Age into three categories.

1. Palaeolithic Age
2. Mesolithic Age
3. Neolithic Age

1. Palaeolithic Age

The Palaeolithic Age began around 5,00,000 BC and continued up to 10,000 BC. This age informs us of the period when early man used tools made of rough stones to protect himself, cut flesh, trees, dig roots, etc. In India, crude tools of the palaeolithic age have been found at :

- (i) Sohan Valley (tributary of river Indus)
- (ii) Upper Jhelum Valley
- (iii) Shimla hills, Sirsa, Beas and Banganga valleys
- (iv) Narmada valley
- (v) Nevasa and Pravara (tributaries of Narmada) valleys

- (vi) Tapi valley
- (vii) Godavari valley
- (viii) Malaprabha and Ghatprabha (tributaries of Krishna) valleys
- (ix) Chambal valley
- (x) Belan valley
- (xi) Tineveli and other places in Tamil Nadu

In India, the tools of the Palaeolithic Age have been found at nearly all the places except Punjab. The tools of the stone age have been found at other places in the world such as Africa, France, China, Spain and Pakistan.



Tools of the palaeolithic age

Know This

'*Australopithecus*', who was the ancestor of *Homo erectus* was present in the said age. There are enough evidences to prove that *Neanderthal* man, who knew the use of fire, was present in the mid and upper palaeolithic age. After the extinction of *Neanderthal* man, many species of *Cromagnon* and *Garibaldi* man such as *Homo sapiens*, developed.



Early man as food-gatherer



Early man as hunter



Shelters of early man

Life of Early man

Archaeologists have come across certain objects which were made and used by early man as hunter and food-gatherer. Early man roamed from place to place in search of food. He used to hunt animals and collected edible plants, roots and fruits from the forests. Thus, early man was wholly dependent upon nature. He used to eat raw food because fire had not been discovered as yet. He used stone tools to hunt animals, cut trees and flesh and dig roots. He used to catch fish from rivers and streams. To protect himself from cold and rain, he used to wear the skins and hides of animals or bark of trees. To save himself from the elements of nature and wild animals, he used to live in caves or on the branches of trees. But later, he started making small huts, made of wood and sticks and had roofs and walls made of dry grass and hay.

Tools and Weapons of Early Man

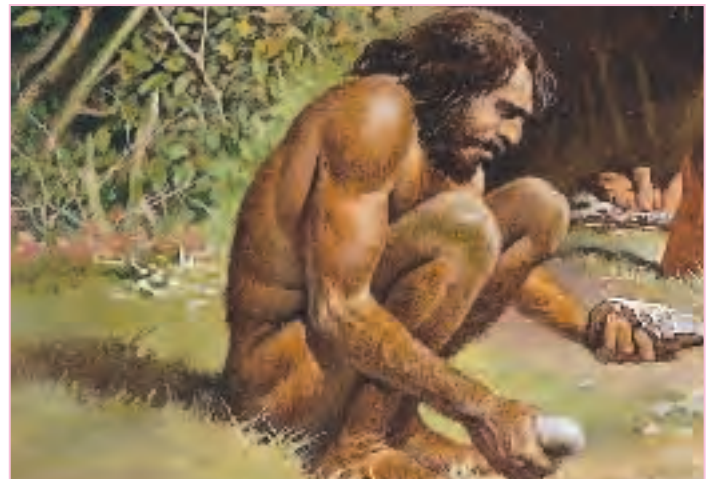
To protect himself from wild animals, early man made pointed tools of wood and stones since he was weak as compared to wild animals and did not have sharp and pointed teeth, claws and horns like them. Fearing from them, he used to live in groups. His tools

included rough hewn axes, spears, knives, hammers and digging tools. These tools and weapons used to fulfill his needs of cutting, hunting of animals and to skin them, to dig earth, etc.

Many such tools have been found at the bottom of rivers flowing in the foothills of Himalayas and at Shivalik mountains, Poonch, Jammu and Deccan plateau.

Discovery of Fire by the Early Man

Millions of years ago at the end of the Palaeolithic Age, man learnt how to use fire and started eating cooked food. Fire helped him to stay warm in winter and protected him from wild animals as they feared it.



Discovery and use of fire by the Early Man



Tools and weapons of early man

2. Mesolithic Age

Mesolithic Age is also called Middle-Stone Age. This age was the period of transition between the Palaeolithic Age and the Neolithic Age. Its time period is believed to be 10,000-8,000 BC.

In this period, important changes took place in the tools and weapons of early man as he started using bones and ivory, etc. to make them. Important

changes also took place in the small-stone weapons. Some tools were made of wood as well.

Later, man learnt to do farming and he came to know how to grow food, besides gathering it.



Mesolithic tools

Deccan : A Case Study

Remains of Palaeolithic Age and Mesolithic Age are found all over India. Their biggest storehouse has been found in South India. In ancient times, the land to the south of Vindhyan mountains was called Dakshina Panth, which was later called Deccan or South India. In Palaeolithic Age in India, two major cultures—Sonian and Achulian developed. Some remains of the Sonian culture have been found in the Shivalik hills. Most Sonian tools and weapons are of post Mesolithic Age, which are found in later Shivalik excavations. The artefacts of the Sonian culture have been found at Sohan Valley (Pakistan).

On the basis of the available material, Achulian culture has been divided into two categories : earlier Achulian and latter Achulian. The main tools of earlier Achulian are cutting tools, hammers and cleavers which have been found in the foothills of the Vindhyan mountains and Narmada basin.

The speciality of latter Achulian culture are sharp edged flak weapons. People of this culture used mid-sized hammers and cleavers.

Many remains of this culture have been found during excavations at different places in Deccan.

Some such places are Attirampakkam, Bhimbetka, Nasre, Guhobaksa, Patuvadi, Guhoska and Chirki Nevasa, etc.

Most of the tools of Achulian culture have been found in the basin of Nevasa, the tributary of Godavari, in Maharashtra. After observing these tools, it has been guessed that the Palaeolithic men lived at this place for a very long time. Such tools also inform us about the food and shelter of early man.

Remains of fossils of nearly 3,00,000 years BC have been found at Tamil Nadu in Deccan and the main among these are the ancient stone tools and remains of animals. Looking at these, one feels that the early man in Deccan used only rough and unwieldy weapons.

3. Neolithic Age

The Neolithic Age began around 8000 BC. The discovery of fire signals the end of the Palaeolithic Age and the beginning of the Neolithic Age.

Beginning of Agriculture : In the beginning, man used to reap wild crop only which used to grow in the forests naturally as he did not know how to grow crops. Most probably, someone witnessed that the seed of a foodgrain got thrown into dung and which grew into golden foodgrain after some time. This was the beginning of agriculture.

Animal Husbandry : Nobody knows how the early man came to rear animals. Most probably, early man must have observed the habits of animals around him. Then he must have domesticated dog, goat, sheep, cow, oxen, horse, donkey, etc. As per one guess, dog was the first animal to be domesticated. Cow and ox were the most useful as they provided milk and meat. Donkeys, horses and camels were used to carry loads. Sheep and goat provided wool and skin to make clothes.

Invention of the Wheel : The invention of the wheel in the Neolithic Age brought about revolutionary changes in the lives of early men. The potter's wheel helped to give distinct shape to clay pots. Wheel was

Know This

The Neolithic Age tools were found in Uttar Pradesh by Lemasurier in 1860 AD while the same were found in Bellary district, Karnataka by Fisher. The polished ware of this age were discovered by Krishnan in Mysore.

also used in sledges, which made it very easy to pull or drag them.

The men of Neolithic Age treated the Earth as mother which fed and protected its children and that's why they respected her. Small idols of mother earth were made of clay and worshipped. They also started to bury the dead bodies. Later on, the tradition of cremating people came into existence.



Invention of the wheel

To Recapitulate

- The age in which stone tools were used is called Stone Age.
- Fire was discovered at the end of the Palaeolithic Age.
- Neolithic Age began around 8,000 years ago.
- Dog was the first animal to be domesticated by man.
- Invention of the wheel brought revolutionary changes in the life of man.
- In the Neolithic Age, the early man started worshipping the mother Earth.



Exercise

A. Tick the correct answer :

1. The stages of Stone Age are :

(a) Four <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Three <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Two <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) Five <input type="checkbox"/>
2. The tools of early man were made up of :

(a) Iron <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Silver <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Stone <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) Soil <input type="checkbox"/>
3. The early man used the tools to :

(a) Protect himself <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Cut flesh <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Dig roots <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) All of these <input type="checkbox"/>
4. The animal first to be domesticated by man was :

(a) Horse <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Ox <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Dog <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) All of these <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Wheel was invented in :

(a) Palaeolithic Age <input type="checkbox"/>	(b) Mesolithic Age <input type="checkbox"/>
(c) Neolithic Age <input type="checkbox"/>	(d) None of these <input type="checkbox"/>

B. Fill in the blanks :

1. Early men were descendants of _____.
2. Mesolithic Age is also called as _____.
3. In early times, the land south to the Vindhyan mountains was called _____.
4. _____ was the first animal to be domesticated by man.
5. Potter's wheel helped to make _____.

C. State whether true or false :

1. The brain of early man was developed less than that of animals.
2. Early man did not know how to cook food.
3. Early man lived in pucca houses to protect himself from elements of nature.
4. The remains of Sonian culture have been found in Shivalik hills.
5. Invention of the wheel made pulling the sledge easy.

D. Short Answer Questions :

1. Into how many periods has the Stone Age been divided?
2. For which works were the tools used by early man?
3. How did early man protect himself from wild animals?
4. Which two inventions/discoveries revolutionized the life of early man?
5. Which animals were domesticated by early man?

E. Long Answer Questions :

1. Describe Palaeolithic Age.
2. Describe the tools and weapons of early man in Palaeolithic Age.
3. Describe Mesolithic Age.
4. What was the difference between the tools of Palaeolithic Age and the Mesolithic Age?
5. Describe Neolithic Age.

Project/Activity

- ▲ Collect pictures of the tools used by the early man and paste them in your scrapbook.