
Chapter – 2 History

On the Trail of the Earliest People

- Human life has evolved over millions of years. In early stages, men were hunters and food gatherers.
 - They hunted wild animals, fishes and gathered fruits, nuts and seeds.
 - **Why did the Earliest people lead a Nomadic life:**
 - (i) If they stayed at one place, resources like plant and animal would finish.
 - (ii) Plants bear different fruits in different seasons. So, man too had to move in search of these, as per seasons.
 - (iii) People had to move wherever water was available.
 - **How do we Know about Early People:**
 - (i) Archaeologists have found out several tools used by hunter gatherers.
 - (ii) Tools were made of stone, wood, etc.
 - (iii) Tools were used to cut meat, chop fruits, etc.
 - (iv) Wood was used to make huts and firewood.
 - **Where did Early Man Live:**
 - (i) Early man lived near sources of water.
 - (ii) They lived in places where stones were found and people made tools.
 - (iii) The place was called factory sites.
 - (iv) The factory sites were found near discarded blocks of stone.
 - (v) These were known as habitation-cum-factory sites.
 - **Stone Age:**
 - (i) The period when mostly stone tools were made is known as stone age.
 - (ii) It is divided into three parts:
 - (a) Paleolithic or Old Stone Age
 - (b) Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age
 - (c) Neolithic or New Stage Age
 - **Making Stone Tools:**

Stone tools were made using two techniques: stone on stone and pressure flaking.
 - **Man Discovers Fire:**
 - (i) Accidentally one of the biggest discoveries made by man was fire.
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- (ii) Over a period of time man learnt several uses of fire.
 - (iii) It was used in winters to keep warm and use it in the art of cooking food.

- **Early Rock Paintings:**

- (i) Man early caves had paintings on the walls.
- (ii) These were found in M.P. and Southern U.P.
- (iii) Early man's painted and what they felt in these paintings.
- (iv) They depicted men hunting, women grinding, children jumping, etc.

- **The Deccan:**

- (i) Paleolithic sites have been found in the Deccan.
- (ii) Some major sites are Chirki - Nevasa in Maharashtra.

- **Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and Hungsi in Karnataka:**

- (i) Rivers like Godavari, Krishna and Tapti drained the region.
 - (ii) Large number of Paleolithic tools made from stone have been found along the river.
 - (iii) Archaeologists are studying these tools carefully to understand the life of early man.
 - (iv) Bones, horns and tusks of animals like elephant and wild ox have been found.
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