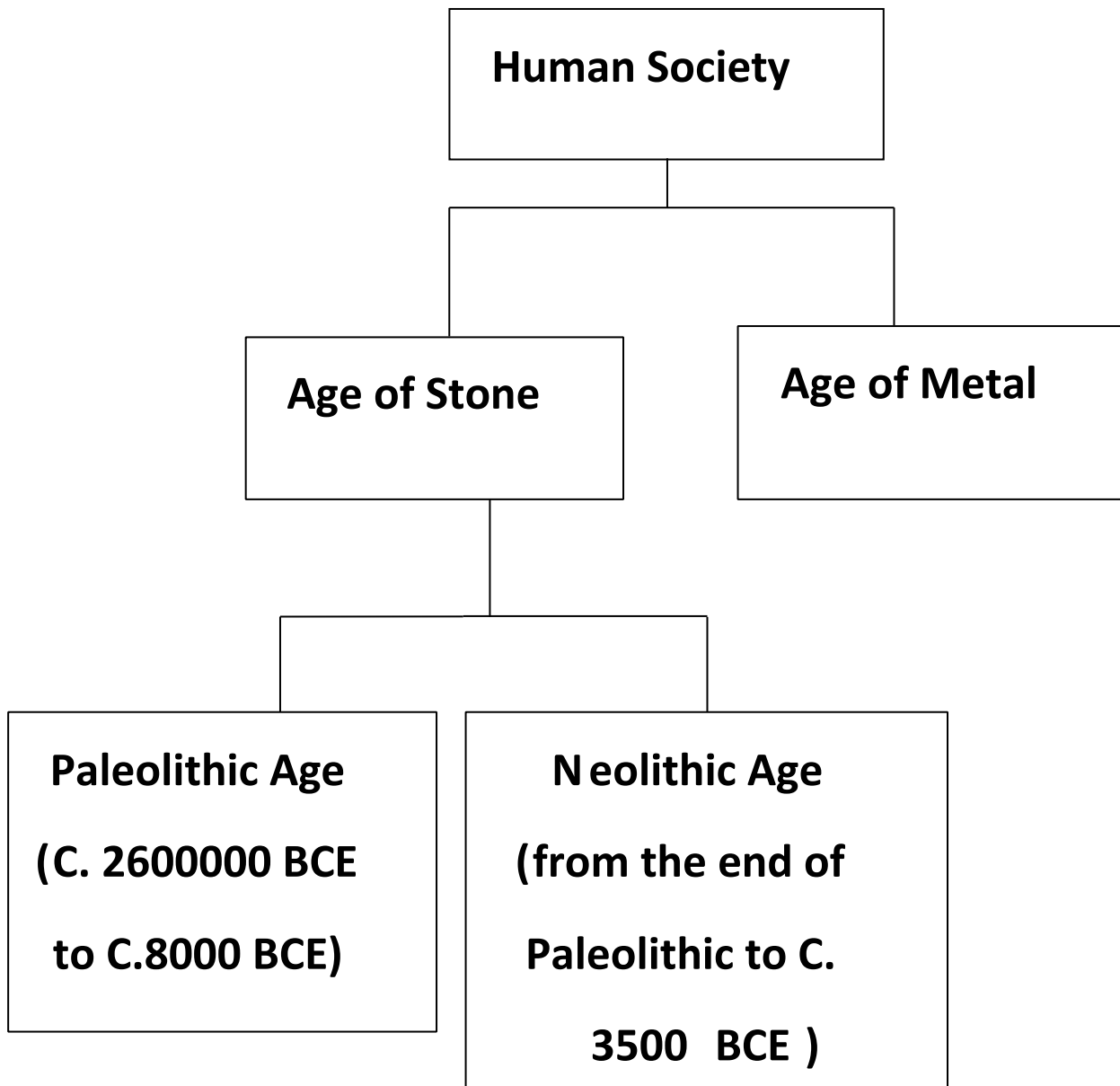


Prelude to civilization

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1) What were the different ages in the development of human society?

Ans: Evolution of human society:



Stone Age: Phase of prehistory when the earliest humans lived, used stone to make most of their tools. They also used other materials.

Paleolithic Age: Paleolithic period or “old stone age” existed 2.5 million years ago, which remained until 8000 BC. It began when hominids first made tools. Simple shaped stone tools like cutters, scrapers and hand axes were made by them. They used spear tips and sticks too. These tools were used to make their lives easier. The first tool was “Hatched” or “Hand Axe”.

There were hunters and gatherers among them. The men used to go for hunting in groups and the women gathered plants, fruits, nuts and seeds to eat. They also took care of the children. Though they moved around to hunt animals and to gather plants in order to eat but it did not always provide the people with steady supply of food. If there were no animals and plants where the people lived, the people would have to leave and find a place where plants and animals are available to eat.

People were, “Nomads” at that time. A person who does not have a permanent home and moves around a lot is called a, “nomad”. They migrate to where the food sources are located and the climate is suitable during seasonal changes. They lived in temporary shelters like tents or caves and lived in small groups because being nomadic made living in large groups difficult.

People during the Paleolithic period painted cave walls, usually animals. They developed the spoken language. They also learned to make fire and to cook with

it. Fire was the most important discovery of the Paleolithic age and the key to survival.

Neolithic Period (New Stone Age): The Neolithic Era (New Stone Age) began when humans invented agriculture. Neolithic people learned how to farm and domesticate animals. Farming replaced hunting and gathering, which was the most important event in human history. Though Farming is more difficult than hunting and gathering but it provided a steady supply of food around the year, which allowed the people to settle down in one place (permanent homes, villages).

People started living in the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent was a place where the land was fertile (good for growing plants). In order to grow plants they needed fertile soil, water, and sunlight. Fertile soil contained substances that plants need to grow. They did irrigation (dig ditches/canals) in order to move water from river to crops. As a result it surpluses their food supply so they stored it for winter. It also increased the growth of the population.

They began to form villages around the fields they farmed and they learned how to make many new things like: jewelry, pottery, bigger houses, better clothing, and stronger tools. Trade began during the Neolithic Era. People began to trade for things they wanted, so some people became traders. These traders would meet with traders from other villages and exchange or sell goods for things their village did not have. To sum up, life improved greatly during the Neolithic Era when people began farming, settling down in permanent homes, and trading.

2) What were the means of livelihood during the Paleolithic age?

Ans: Paleolithic Age: Paleolithic period or “old stone age” existed 2.5 million years ago, which remained until 8000 BC. It began when hominids first made tools. Simple shaped stone tools like cutters, scrapers and hand axes were made by them. They used spear tips and sticks too. These tools were used to make their lives easier. The first tool was “Hatched” or “Hand Axe”.

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3) What new means of livelihood acquired by humans during the Neolithic age?

Ans: Neolithic Period (New Stone Age): The Neolithic Era (New Stone Age) began when humans invented agriculture. Neolithic people learned how to farm and domesticate animals. Farming replaced hunting and gathering, which was the most important event in human history. Though Farming is more difficult than hunting and gathering but it provided a steady supply of food around the year, which allowed the people to settle down in one place (permanent homes, villages).

People started living in the Fertile Crescent. The Fertile Crescent was a place where the land was fertile (good for growing plants). In order to grow plants they needed fertile soil, water, and sunlight. Fertile soil contained substances that plants need to grow. They did irrigation (dig ditches/canals) in order to move water from river to crops. As a result it surpluses their food supply so they stored it for winter. It also increased the growth of the population.

They began to form villages around the fields they farmed and they learned how to make many new things like: jewelry, pottery, bigger houses, better clothing, and stronger tools. Trade began during the Neolithic Era. People began to trade for things they wanted, so some people became traders. These traders would meet with traders from other villages and exchange or sell goods for things their village did not have. To sum up, life improved greatly during the Neolithic Era when people began farming, settling down in permanent homes, and trading.

4) What was the difference between Paleolithic and Neolithic ages in terms of tools and weapons?

Ans: The difference between Paleolithic and Neolithic ages in terms of tools and weapons are given below:

	Paleolithic Age	Neolithic Age
1	Simple shaped stone tools like cutters, scrapers and hand axes.	More advanced shaped tools like bows-arrows and harpoons.
2	Spear tips and sticks were also used.	Widespread use of ground-stone tools.
3		Antler or wood plows.
4		Ends with use of metals (copper)

5) What is Neolithic revolution?

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6) What is civilization?

Ans: It refers to the civilizations developed in the fertile river valley. Rivers played a great role in the birth of the earliest civilizations that began in Asia and Africa. The ancient people built their settlements along the river banks for several reasons. Rivers are great sources of food and fresh water. Crop planting is best in the river valleys. Each time the river is flooded, fertile soils are deposited in the planting field. Also pastoral animals are herded along the river banks where they enjoy the moderate climate. Rivers were the great centers of ancient trade. The easy access to water routes speeded up the trading activities by different groups of people. Thus the most prosperous settlements were those build along the river and other coastal waters. There are some features of civilization:

• Cities	• Social Classes
• Organized Government	• Arts and Architectures
• Complex Religion	• Public Works
• Job Specialization	• Writing

7) How did civilization emerge?

Ans: Arnold Toynbee's said in his Theory of Adversity that civilization emerges when people can meet the existing challenges with appropriate responses. Some factors facilitated civilization. First of all successful Neolithic Revolution and Suitable geographic (proximity to rivers, fertile land) and climatic (moderate temperature, humidity, rainfall) conditions create the foundation for civilization. At the end high level of intellectual development made people capable of creating civilization.