



Multidisciplinary Basic History 2

SL Sir

Pre-History Phase

- The English word history comes from Greek *Historia* meaning knowledge acquired by investigation
- History is divided into pre-history, proto-history and history
- Pre-history is generally represented by the three stone age while proto-history generally marks the period of Harappan civilization
- The significant marker of proto-history is that writing is not fully developed in the civilization but it is mentioned by contemporary literate civilization

Pre-History Phase

- Robert Bruce Foote discovered the first Palaeolithic tool called the Pallavaram hand axe
- The contribution of Sir Mortimer Wheeler is equally significant
- The stone age is classified into three types:
 - Palaeolithic (500,000-10,000 BCE)
 - Mesolithic (10,000–6000 BCE)
 - Neolithic (6000–1000 BCE)

Classification

Terminology	Geological age	tools	subsistence
Lower Palaeolithic	Lower Pleistocene	Pebble, chopping tools, cleavers	Hunting and gathering
Middle Palaeolithic	Middle	Flake tools, levallois technique	Hunting gathering
Upper Palaeolithic	Upper	Blade tools	Hunting gathering
Mesolithic	holocene	microliths	+fishing and domestication
Neolithic	holocene	celts	Food production

PREHISTORY TIMELINE

STONE AGE			METAL AGE		
2500 000 B.C.	10 000 B.C.	5 500 B.C.	2 500 B.C.	1700 B.C.	800 B.C.
					218 B.C.
PALAEOLITHIC	MESOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC	COPPER AGE	BRONZE AGE	IRON AGE
Hunter-gatherers Stone, bone and wood Fire	The tool period	Sedentary life Cultivate crops Domesticate animals Make pottery	Discovery of metals Copper tools and weapons	Bronze tools and weapons	Iron tools and weapons coins

ALTAMIRA CAVE PAINTINGS



Palaeolithic Age

- This earliest period of stone age developed in the Pleistocene period or the Ice Age
- People in this period was food gathering who lived on hunting and gathering wild fruit and vegetables
- They had no knowledge of agriculture, house building, pottery or any metal
- The primary tools of this period was hand axes, cleaver, chopper, blade, burin and scrapers
- Mostly, the tools were made of hard rock called quartzite. Quartzite men

Life of the hunter- Gatherers

- Material desire limited
- Band society according to the anthropologists.
- Mobile
- Exchange of goods on the basis of the rules of reciprocity.
- They did not fully exploit the nature.
- Continuous habitation.
- Division of labour , women ere gatherers.

Mesolithic Age

- Both Mesolithic and Neolithic Age belonged to the Holocene era geologically.
- The Mesolithic men lived on hunting, fishing, gathering and domestication
- The characteristic tool of this period was microliths or miniature stone tools made of silica, chalcedony or chert.
- Pottery is absent at most Mesolithic sites except Langhnaj in Gujarat and Kaimur region in Mirzapur
- The last phase of this age saw the beginning of plant cultivation

Neolithic Age

- This age emerged around 8000 – 6000 BCE
- In south and eastern India it is as late as 1000 BCE
- V. Gordon Childe termed the Neolithic age as Neolithic revolution as it introduced a lot of innovation
- Neolithic men cultivated Ragi, horse gram, and domesticated cattle, sheep and goats
- They innovated the production of stone tools and depended on polished stone to make tools

Chalcolithic Age (3000–500 BCE)

- The Chalcolithic Age marked the emergence of the use of metal along with stone tools.
- The first metal to be used was copper.
- Technologically the Chalcolithic Age largely applies to the settlements of pre-Harappans, but in various parts of the country it appeared after the end of the Bronze Harappan culture.
- Some prominent sites of pre-Harappan Chalcolithic cultures are Ganeswar, Kalibangan (Rajasthan), Banawali (Haryana), Kot diji (Sindh).

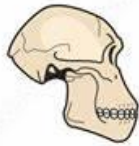
Chalcolithic Age

- Chalcolithic people domesticated cow, sheep, goat, pig and buffalo.
- They were not acquainted with horses.
- The domesticated animals were slaughtered for food and not milked for dairy products.
- The people of this age also wheat, rice, bajra for their staples along with lentil, black gram, green gram and grass pea.
- They practiced slash and burn cultivation.
- Neither the plough nor the hoe has been found from any site.

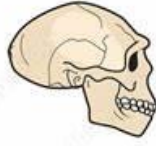
Chalcolithic Age

- They were fond of ornaments and decoration. The women wore ornaments of shell and bone.
- The Bull was probably the symbols of their religious cult.
- They were expert copper-smiths. They knew the art of copper smelting.
- They manufactured semi-precious stones like carnelian, steatite and quartz crystal.
- They knew spinning and weaving.
- In Maharashtra the dead were buried in the north-south direction while in the south they were buried east-west direction.

EVOLUTION OF THE SKULL



AUSTRALOPITHECUS



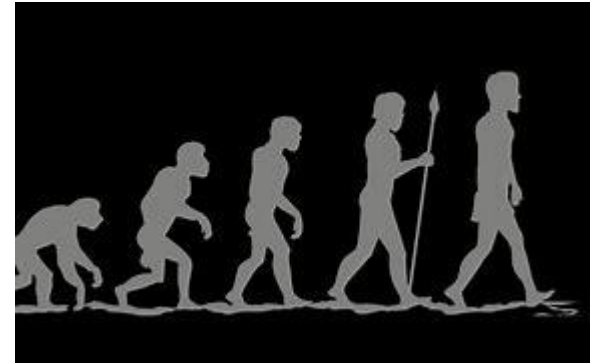
HOMO ERECTUS



HOMO SAPIENS
NEANDERTHALENSIS



HOMO SAPIENS



- **Australopithecus**

- The fossil of this genus was first discovered in 1924 in South Africa. They lived on the ground, used stones as weapons and walked erect. They were 4 feet tall and weighed 60-80 pounds.

- **Homo Erectus**

- The first fossil of Homo Erectus was found in Java in 1891. These were named as Pithecanthropus Erectus. These were considered as the missing link between the man and apes. Another discovery made in China was the Peking man. This specimen had large cranial capacities and is believed to have lived in communities. Homo erectus used tools comprising quartz. Tools made of bones and wood were also discovered. There is evidence of collective huntings. There is also evidence of the use of fire. The Homo Erectus is believed to dwell in caves.

- **Homo Sapiens Neanderthalensis**

- The Homo Erectus evolved into Homo Sapiens. During evolution, two sub-species of Homo Sapiens were identified- Homo sapien Neanderthal and Homo sapiens sapiens. The cranial capacity of Neanderthal grew from 1200 to 1600 cc. Some small hand axes had also been discovered. This species of hominids could hunt big names such as mammoths.

- **Homo Sapiens Sapiens**

- The remains of Homo Sapiens were first discovered in Europe and were named Cro-Magnon. In these, the jaws are quite reduced, the modern man's chin appeared, and the skull was rounded. Their cranial capacity was about 1350 cc. They gathered food through hunting. Art first appeared during this time.