

OBJECTIVES

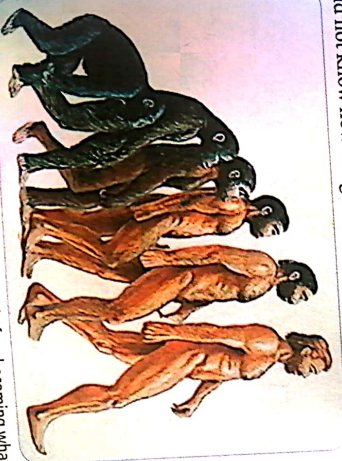
In this chapter we will learn about:

- The Stone Age and its different stages
- Sources of information about the Stone Age
- Palaeolithic Age in the Deccan
- Tools and weapons used during the Stone Age
- Factory and habitation sites



Human beings walk on two feet. Our bodies are not covered with fur like that of many other animals. We are able to use our hands for a variety of things. We are also able to write, hold objects, fix or repair things and even make objects. Most of the food that we eat is cooked. We wear different kinds of clothing depending on the occasion.

However, there was a point in time, millions of years ago, when man used all four limbs to move from one place to another. He did not wear any clothes; he had thick hair on his body which protected him from the cold. He did not know how to cook food, because he did not know how to light a fire.



Man went through many stages of evolution before becoming what he is today. The study of history helps us to understand why and how he changed.

It is quite clear that man has changed a lot over the years. His behaviour and appearance have changed and he has learnt many new things. How did this change come about? Did it happen all of a sudden? The change happened very gradually, over many hundreds of thousands of years.

From using all four limbs to move, man gradually became **bipedal**, i.e., he started walking on two legs. His back became erect. This was an important change. Since he could now stand up straight, he had more scope for looking around and observing the world around him.

Since his hands were now free, he could touch and feel objects and discover new uses for them. He was able to explore things in a better manner. He became curious about objects and surroundings around him and was able to satisfy his curiosity by trying and testing out things.

Later in this chapter you will learn how Early Man discovered fire by experimenting with objects in his surroundings.

The Stone Age

The Stone Age is a very important period in the history of mankind. During this period many key changes took place in the way man lived, behaved and looked.

The Stone Age is so called because during this period, man made many tools and weapons from stones. He used these tools and weapons for hunting, to protect himself and for other daily activities.

The Stone Age is divided into three main periods: Palaeolithic Age, Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age. As each period progressed, the tools that man used became more and more advanced and his way of life improved.

Palaeolithic Age or Old Stone Age

This period gets its name from the Greek word 'palaios' meaning 'old' and 'lithos' meaning 'stone'. It lasted from around 2 million BC to 10,000 BC.

During this stage, man lived as a hunter-gatherer. This means that he depended on two main things for his survival— (a) hunting animals and (b) gathering fruits, roots, nuts, seeds and even birds' eggs.

There was no supermarket for him to go and buy things. The animals he hunted and the things he gathered from his surroundings were all the food he had.

However, hunting and gathering was difficult as some wild animals were dangerous, and others could run really fast. In order to hunt them, man had to use his strength and intelligence.

Constant movement in search for water sources, plants and animals.

- If the lakes and rivers which they used dried up during certain seasons, they had to find water in other lakes and rivers in other areas.
- After they had used up all the edible plants in one area, they had to go to another area where there were more plants.
- Moreover, animals kept moving in search of food. So hunter-gatherers also had to keep moving in search of these animals.

Palaeolithic man also had to know about plants. Some plants could be poisonous and he would have to avoid them. He had to pick fruits that were ripe enough to be eaten. However, it was not easy.

Therefore, the Palaeolithic hunter-gatherers lived as nomads. A nomad is someone who constantly moves from place to place and never settles down in any one place.

Studies show that nomads did not build houses. They used caves and rock shelters found in nature as temporary houses. Sometimes they even lived in the hollows of trees. In the early stages of the Palaeolithic Age they did not wear clothes. However, as time passed they began to cover themselves with the barks of trees and the dried skin of animals. They used sharp bones as needles to stitch the animal skins and barks into clothes.

How do we know so many things about hunter-gatherers? One main source of information about them are the stone tools and weapons that have been discovered by archaeologists. Map 2 in the next chapter shows some of the main sites where tools, weapons and even paintings made by nomads have been found.

Now, let us look at some of the tools that early man used during the Palaeolithic Age.



Rock paintings at Bhimbli
painted pictures of ar

Activity

Find pictures of sites in places like Observe them a most interesting



A habitation

In the initial st pebbles which t they began to n



Quick Facts

Factory sites: These are places where early man was able to find good quality stones and make his tools and weapons.

Habitation sites: These are natural rock shelters and caves where early man lived for temporary periods.

Factory-cum-habitation sites: These were places where early man could live as well as work on making his stone tools and weapons.



Rock paintings at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh. Palaeolithic man painted pictures of animals on cave walls and rock shelters.

Activity-1



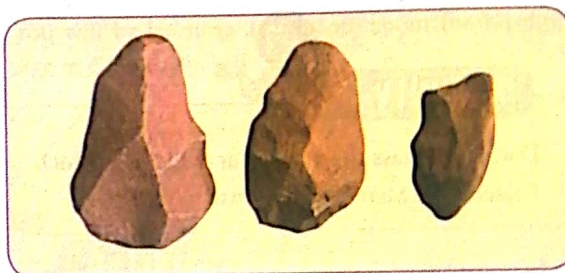
Find pictures of Palaeolithic habitation or factory sites in places like Bhimbetka, Hunsgi and Kurnool. Observe them and write down the things you find most interesting about these pictures.



A habitation site at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh.

In the initial stages, nomads used simple tools like pebbles which they found in their surroundings. Later, they began to make their own tools.

Early Man



Some Palaeolithic tools

Core tools and flake tools

A core tool is made from a piece of stone known as the 'core'.

A flake tool is made from a small flake which has been chipped off from the core.

Techniques used in making core tools

Stone-on-stone or percussion flaking

The core is held with one hand and hammered with another stone using the other hand. This way, flakes are chipped off from the sides of the core and the desired shape is formed.

Pressure flaking

The core is kept on a flat surface. Pressure is exerted on the edges of the core using a sharp instrument such as a bone or antler. This causes tiny flakes to chip off the edges. By chipping off the flakes continuously in this manner the core can be designed into any desired shape.

Activity-2



There are certain educational websites on the internet where you can view videos of how pressure flaking and percussion flaking are done.

Visit one of these sites so that you can watch these techniques.

H-15

Activity-3

Discuss in class the various activities for which Palaeolithic Man needed to use tools?

Discovery of fire

Early man was aware that fire existed. He had seen fire caused by natural like lightning, sparks from falling rocks and overheating of forests by the sun's rays. However, he did not know how to start a fire.

In the later part of the Palaeolithic Age, this changed. Man learnt to light a fire by rubbing two stones together. This improved his way of life. He began to use fire in many ways — to keep himself warm, to cook meat and light up his surroundings so that he could see things clearly at night. He also discovered that animals were scared of fire. So he lit a fire in front of his cave at night, no wild animals would come to attack him.

Mesolithic Age or Middle Stone Age

This period of the Stone Age gets its name from two Greek words — 'mesos' meaning 'middle' and 'lithos' meaning 'stone'.

The Mesolithic Age lasted from about 10,000 BC to about 8,000 BC.

During the Mesolithic Age, man began to make more improved and advanced tools.

One of the most important type of tools that were made during this period were called **microliths**. Microliths are tiny stone tools, usually about

2-3 inches long. They have sharper edges than tools made during the Palaeolithic Age. Chert and flint were some of the main substances used to make microliths. Microliths were used as scrapers. Animal skins had to be scraped clean and dried before being used as clothing.

They could also be used as blades and knives.

Microliths were sometimes attached to handles made of wood or bone and then used as arrows and spears.



Microliths attached to wood

Hunting, gathering and fishing were the main sources of survival even in the Mesolithic Age. Since fire had been discovered by now, Mesolithic man could cook his food. He also learnt how to store meat, nuts and berries for long periods.

Mesolithic man used bone needles to sew clothing made of dried animal skin.

From depending on cave and rock shelters for habitation, he began to build temporary huts close to rivers and lakes. He would stay here for short periods and then move on. So Mesolithic man was semi-nomadic. He was not always on the move like Paleolithic man, but he did not settle down completely in one place either.

Towards the end of the Mesolithic Age, man slowly started growing his own fruits and vegetables. He also tried to domesticate sheep and other animals.

Mesolithic man also painted on cave surfaces. While the Palaeolithic man made large animal figures, Mesolithic man made small figures of hunting scenes, animals and people.

Neolithic Age or New Stone Age

'Neo' is a Greek word meaning 'new'. The Neolithic Age began about 8,000 years ago.

In the Neolithic Age man began to build permanent houses. He also learnt to domesticate animals. The Neolithic Age was more advanced. Overall, man's way of life improved during the Neolithic Age.

In the next chapter, Map 2 shows some important sites where evidence of the Neolithic Age has been found.

- The cave paintings in Kakad and the cave paintings found in the Bhimbetha caves in Madhya Pradesh are 30,000 years old.



Examples of microliths

Summary

- The period when early man lived is called the Stone Age.
- The Stone Age is divided into three periods: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic.
- In the Palaeolithic Age, man lived in caves and made simple tools. He moved from place to place.
- In the Mesolithic Age, man made better tools and lived in temporary huts.
- In the Neolithic Age, man made even better tools and started farming.
- Percussion flaking and pressure flaking are methods used to make stone tools.
- Bhimbetka is a place in Madhya Pradesh where many prehistoric sites have been found.

Mesolithic man also painted on cave walls and rock surfaces. While the Palaeolithic man painted mostly large animal figures, Mesolithic man painted smaller figures of hunting scenes, animals and people.

Neolithic Age or New Stone Age

'Neo' is a Greek word meaning 'new' and 'lithos' means 'stone'. The Neolithic Age began after 8,000 BC.

In the Neolithic Age man began to grow food on a large scale. He also learnt to domesticate animals and build permanent houses. The tools he used became more advanced. Overall, man's way of life changed and improved during the Neolithic Age.

In the next chapter, Map 2 shows some of the important sites where evidence of Neolithic man have been found.

You will be learning a lot more about the Neolithic Age in Chapter 3.

Activity-3



Form three groups. One group has to enact a skit to show the salient features of the Paleolithic Age, the second has to enact a skit on the Mesolithic Age and the third group has to enact a skit on the Neolithic Age.

Around this Time

- The cave paintings in Kakadu National Park in Australia, the cave paintings of the Bushmen of the Kalahari Desert and the cave paintings found in the Lascaux caves in France, are all extremely similar to the cave paintings found in the Bhimbetha caves in Madhya Pradesh. Investigation and research has shown that all of them are 300,000 to 30,000 years old.

Summary



- The period when early man began to make tools from stones is called the **Stone Age**.
- The Stone Age is divided into three stages — **Palaeolithic Age**, **Mesolithic Age** and **Neolithic Age**.
- In the Palaeolithic Age, man made simple stone tools and lived as a **hunter-gatherer**. He constantly moved from place to place, using natural rocks and caves as temporary shelters. Towards the end of the Palaeolithic age, he discovered fire.
- In the Mesolithic Age, he became **semi-nomadic**. He made tiny, sharp tools called **microliths** and also built temporary huts.
- In the Neolithic Age, he grew plants, reared animals and built permanent houses.
- Percussion flaking** and **pressure flaking** are the two tool-making techniques used during the Stone Age.
- Bhimbetka is a place in Madhya Pradesh which provides a lot of information regarding the Stone Age.

Exercises

1. Choose the correct option.

- (a) The Palaeolithic Age lasted from
 (i) About 8,000 BC to 4,000 BC
 (ii) About 10,000 BC to 8,000 BC
 (iii) About 2 million BC to 10,000 BC
- (b) Microliths were usually about
 (i) 10–15 inches long (ii) 2–3 inches long (iii) 2–3 feet long
- (c) Hunter gatherers used clothes made of
 (i) animal skins (ii) cotton (iii) silk
- (d) Rock paintings made by Stone Age Man can be found at
 (i) Bengaluru (ii) Bhimbetka (iii) Kashmir
- (e) Man became semi-nomadic in the
 (i) Paleolithic Age (ii) Mesolithic Age (iii) Neolithic Age

2. Answer the following questions in one word or one line.

- (a) Name the three stages the Stone Age is divided into?
 (b) What is the difference between core tools and flake tools?
 (c) In what ways are the tools of the Palaeolithic Age and the Mesolithic Age different from each other?
 (d) What are factory sites?
 (e) What are habitation sites?

3. Match the columns.

	Column A	Column B
(a)	Bipedal	(i) Tiny tools of the Mesolithic Age
(b)	Old Stone Age	(ii) Began to build permanent houses
(c)	Lithos	(iii) Walking on two feet
(d)	Microliths	(iv) Habitation sites
(e)	Rock shelters	(v) Discovery of fire
(f)	Nomads	(vi) Used as clothing
(g)	Tree barks	(vii) Greek word for stone
(h)	Neolithic man	(viii) Move from place to place

4. Fill in the blank.

- (a) The Mesolithic Age ended with the discovery of fire.
 (b) _____
 (c) _____
 (d) _____
 (e) Hunter-gatherers used animal skins for clothes.

5. Project

Make a chart to show the changes in the Stone Age.

6. Group Discussion

Do you think the hunter-gatherer life today is more difficult than in the Stone Age?

7. HOTS

Did Early Man in different parts of the world have different tools?

8. Short answer questions

- (a) In what ways did the Stone Age differ from the Mesolithic Age?
 (b) Write any two names of the tools used in the Stone Age.
 (c) What are the differences between the Palaeolithic Age and the Mesolithic Age?
 (d) How did the discovery of fire change the life of Early Man?
 (e) What is the difference between a core tool and a flake tool?

9. Long answer questions

- (a) Write about the life of Early Man.
 (b) Explain the reasons for the discovery of fire.
 (c) If you had to choose one tool from the Stone Age, which one would you choose and why?

4. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) The Mesolithic Age ended around _____ (10,000 BC/8,000 BC).
- (b) _____ sites were used to make tools. (Habitation/Factory)
- (c) _____ was used to make microliths. (Chert/Silver)
- (d) _____ Age came before the Mesolithic Age. (Paleolithic/Neolithic)
- (e) Hunter-gatherers used needles made of _____ to stitch their clothes. (bone/steel)

5. Project

Make a chart to show the three different stages of the Stone Age.

6. Group Discussion

Do you think the hunter-gatherers led a more difficult life than we do? Alternatively do you feel that the life we lead today is more difficult than the hunter-gatherers life?

7. HOTS

Did Early Man in different parts of the world experience the various ages at the same time?

8. Short answer questions.

- (a) In what ways did life change for early man when he became bipedal?
- (b) Write any two methods of making tools during the Stone Age.
- (c) What are the different ways in which microliths were used?
- (d) How did the discovery of fire change life for early man?
- (e) What is the difference between core tools and flake tools.

9. Long answer questions.

- (a) Write about a day in the life of a hunter-gatherer.
- (b) Explain the reasons why hunter-gatherers had to live as nomads.
- (c) If you had to choose between living in the Palaeolithic Age, the Mesolithic Age or the Neolithic Age, which one would you choose and why?