

SAHAYADHI BATCH



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**CHAPTER- EVOLUTION
OF HUMAN BEINGS**

BATCH-2025-2026

THE PALAEOOLITHIC AGE OR THE OLD STONE AGE

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Old Stone Age is also known as the Palaeolithic Age. The early humans who lived during this period were nomads. They moved from one place to another according to the change in seasons, gathering wild plants, fruits and berries. These groups also moved following the route of animals that they hunted to eat. It is because of this lifestyle that the people of this period are known as hunter-gatherers. However, they faced two major problems.

- Many animals ran faster than the early humans.
- It was dangerous to get too close to the animals as they attacked the early humans often killing or injuring them.

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TOOLS

To overcome the problems faced during hunting, the early humans made tools of stone that had sharp edges and could be thrown from a distance. They did this by chipping away small pieces of stone from a big piece. Gradually, they learnt that some stones could be chipped and made sharper more easily than the others.

The hunter-gatherers discovered a stone called flint. Flint stone could be easily shaped and was used to make sharp objects. They made knives, spears, arrowheads, axes and harpoons with flint and other stones. These tools were used for hunting animals, cutting meat, fish, digging and even sewing.

During excavations, the archaeologists have found many such tools, which still retain their sharpness.



SHELTERS



People living in the Stone Age did not have houses as we have now. While some Palaeolithic people lived in caves, others lived under rock overhangs, on trees or out in the open. They used animal skins and leaves to reinforce their shelters.



CAVE PAINTINGS



Early human beings made paintings and drawings on the walls of the caves they lived in, possibly as a form of recreation. Archaeologists believe that these paintings may have had some religious significance. What is significant is that the colours used in these paintings are still quite vivid!

IMPORTANT

The most important feature of the Palaeolithic Age was the discovery of fire. It was a turning point for humankind. Though early humans may have seen natural fire, the ability to start a fire on their own was discovered by chance or an accident.

Fire helped the early humans in many ways.

- Fire helped the early humans to roast and cook food.

- Fire kept them warm and light up dark caves.

- Fire helped the early humans scare away wild animals and help them in their battle of survival.

