

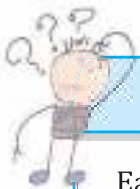
PALAEOLITHIC AGE

Palaeo means 'old' and **lithic** means 'stone'. The Palaeolithic man prepared stone tools to defend himself from wild animals. He also used them for hunting animals, chopping meat, cutting wood and digging. The tools were known as **core** and **flake tools**. The core tools were made from large stones by sharpening the edges. The flake tools were formed when flake (broken pieces) of stone struck off from a large piece of stone.

These tools were crude and unpolished. The man of this period was 'food hunter' and 'gatherer' who moved from one place to another in search of food. The greatest achievement of man during this period was when he accidentally discovered fire by rubbing two stones against each other. Fire provided him not only warmth in the cold weather but also safety from the wild animals. Moreover, he was able to roast raw food to make it tastier and softer. Some of the remains of this period have been found in India at Bhimbetka, Hunsgi and Kurnool.



Early man making tools



Do You Know?

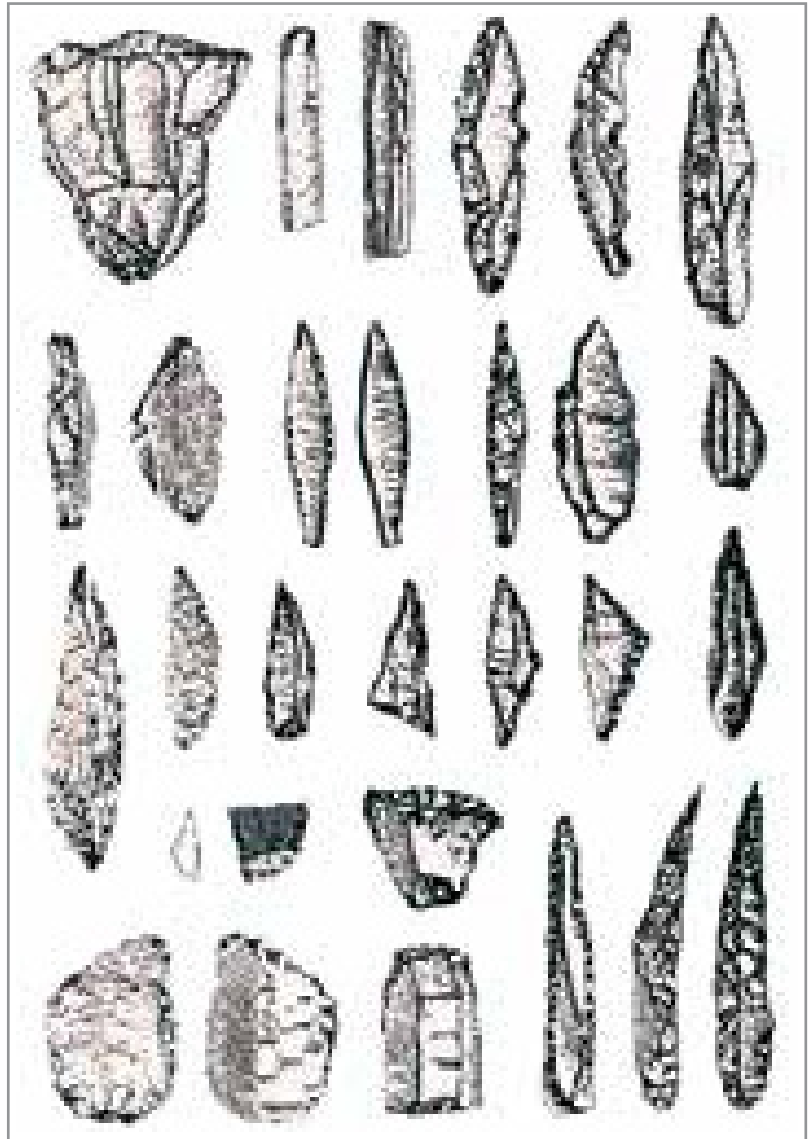
Early man used to live in various types of houses like pit-houses, caves and open air sites. Archaeologists have found pit-houses at Burzahom (present Kashmir region) which were dug into the ground with steps leading into them.

MESOLITHIC AGE

Meso means 'middle'. Hence, this age refers to the period between Palaeolithic Age and the Neolithic Age. The tools and implements of this period improved gradually. Man started using horns and bones in addition to the stone tools. He learnt to fix small stones to sticks and used them to hunt animals.

The man of Mesolithic age started making huts with the branches of trees. He continued to eat a variety of seeds, berries, roots, nuts and fish as his ancestors did.

Gradually, the man became a 'food producer' and he moved close to water sources like rivers and lakes. The beginning of agriculture took place during this period when the man learnt to drop seeds in the soil to grow plants. He also started taming animals, like cow, goat, sheep and pig, that served his needs. It is said that dog was the first



Mesolithic tools

animal to be tamed by man. The mesolithic man protected himself from cold and rain with the skins (hides) of animals.

In India the remains of Mesolithic Period have been found in Ujjain, Jorwa, Chandoli and Singhapur.

NEOLITHIC AGE

Neo means 'new'. During this period, man prepared new stone tools which were harder and stronger. He became a skilled 'tool-maker'. He started polishing and grinding his tools and weapons.



Do You Know?

The life of Neolithic people was not a constant struggle for survival because they were good hunters. They learnt to organise hunting and store food for the long winter.

His weapons included stone-axe, knives, spears, harpoons, wooden bows and stone-tipped arrows. The remains of such tools have been found in different parts of the world. The places related to the Neolithic age in India are Burzahom, Mehrgarh, Chirand, Daojali Hading, Hallur and Koldihwa. The Neolithic man started growing grains like rice, wheat, etc. He regarded earth as his mother and worshipped it. The Neolithic man believed in life after death. The dead were buried along with the objects, like beads, pots, tools, etc., that they used in their life. It was believed that they might need them in another life. The cultivation of crops and domestication of animals were the important achievements of man of Neolithic Age. As he did not have to move constantly in search of food, he started leading a 'settled life'. The settled life gave birth to the institution of family. Due to the availability of time and opportunity, man developed new skills. He invented the sickle for cutting crops and grass, axe for cutting trees and grinding stone to grind the grains. He also learnt the art of knitting and weaving. He started weaving clothes with wool and jute. He carved little statues from ivory and bone. Settled life also initiated religious practices. The most remarkable invention of Neolithic man was the invention of **wheel**. People used the wheel for making sledges and chariots. They also used the wheel for other activities like spinning and pottery.



Invention of Wheel



Neolithic tool and pottery

The man of Neolithic Age was responsible for developing the first **pottery**. In the beginning, the hand-made pots were dried in the sun and used. Later on, he learnt to bake the clay pots. Baking on fire gave lustre, strength and durability to the pots. They were decorated with carvings of flowers, leaves, etc.

It may have been during the baking of the clay pots in kilns that man discovered that metal is produced when some ore melts. It is believed that copper was the first metal to be discovered by man. Hence, the **Stone Age** came to an end and the **Metal Age** began when man started using copper tools in addition to the stone tools and implements. This period is known as **Chalcolithic Period** (**Chalco** means 'copper').

You will be surprised to know that up to this period, the events and the stone tools were similar in all parts of the world. But the use of metals revolutionised the process of the evolution of human society. Differences in the speed and level of development were noticed in different parts of the world. Thus, Neolithic Period was a step towards the development of civilisation.



Keywords

- **bake:** to cook or strengthen by heat.
- **core:** central part of something.
- **domestication:** trained to live or work for humans.
- **flake:** very thin piece.
- **lustre:** soft glow.



Something To Know

A. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. Which continent is believed to be the origin of mankind?

(a) Asia

(b) Africa

(c) Australia

(d) North America

2. When did man become a skilled tool-maker?

(a) Mesolithic age

(b) Palaeolithic age

(c) Neolithic age

(d) Chalcolithic age

3. The tools of Palaeolithic man were made up of—

(a) metal

(b) stone

(c) wood

(d) clay

4. The first animal domesticated by man was—

(a) cow

(b) pig

(c) goat

(d) dog

5. The early man travelled from place to place in search of—

(a) food

(b) companion

(c) leisure

(d) shelter

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. The greatest achievement of man during Palaeolithic Age was _____.

2. Palaeo means _____ and lithic means _____.

3. In India, the remains of Mesolithic man have been found in the regions of _____ and _____.

4. _____ was the first metal discovered by man.

5. _____ man believed in life after death.

C. Number the following sentences in the order in which they occurred in the life of the early man.

- He invented fire.
- He started weaving his clothes.
- He covered his body with the skins of animals.
- Metal Age started after the Stone Age.
- He invented the wheel.
- He made pots.
- He moved towards water sources.
- He started using bones and horns as tools.



D. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. Mention the sources that enable us to understand the history of early man.
2. List the three phases of Stone Age.
3. How did early man obtain his food?
4. State any two uses of fire in the Old Stone Age.
5. What is meant by Chalcolithic period?

E. Answer the following questions.

1. Describe any four major changes that took place in human life during Mesolithic age.
2. What were the beliefs of Neolithic man about life?
3. How did the invention of wheel help in the development of human civilisation?
4. Distinguish between Paleolithic and Neolithic Age with respect to tools, occupations and inventions.
5. How were the tools of Paleolithic man different from that of Mesolithic age?



Value Based Question

“Necessity is the mother of invention.”

Justify the statement with the help of examples from the life of early man.



Map Skill

On an outline political map of India, label the following four places and write the names of the present states.

- (a) Bhimbetka
- (b) Hunsgi
- (c) Burzahom
- (d) Brahmagiri



Something To Do

1. Visit your school library or browse through the internet or carefully study the paintings given below and notice the similarities between the art of the early man and the tribal art today.



Rock paintings of Mesolithic period
at Bhimbetka



Tribal art: Worli Tribe,
Maharashtra

2. Invention of wheel was no doubt one of the greatest achievements of the early man. Prepare a list of equipment or appliances to show the widespread use of wheel in various fields of our life today.
3. Hold a class discussion on—‘The need of storing grains in a vast country, like India, with a large population’. Suggest measures to protect food grains.

Man is called a **social animal**. Man cannot live without a society or a community. The society provides security and support to everyone. It is due to human nature and our necessity that we enjoy living in a community.

As a result of the advancement in science and technology, human needs have multiplied many-fold. The people living in the villages comparatively lead a simple life than those who reside in cities. As a result, their requirements are different from one another. In short, needs, requirements and necessities of human beings compel them to live together and extend mutual co-operation. This is called **community life**.

COMMUNITY AND INTERDEPENDENCE

The **community** in which we live comprises of the family, the school and the neighbourhood. The families living close to one another, in a particular area, form a **neighbourhood**. Living together helps in solving various kinds of problems by mutual give and take. A group of neighbourhoods comprises a **village** or a **city**. Many villages and cities together form a **country**. No country in the world can meet the demands of its people independently. Hence, every family, neighbourhood, village, city or country has to depend on one another.

In our daily life, we require the services of farmers, tailors, electricians, plumbers, shopkeepers, teachers, doctors and many more specialists and skilled workers. The interdependence in every sphere of life promotes a feeling of togetherness, belongingness and social well-being. This paves the way for continuous development of community life.



Community: The Family

All of us live in a family. The **family** is the first and the smallest unit of the community. It meets our needs and helps us to adapt ourselves to surroundings. The family is also called our **first school**. It is here that the child observes, imitates and learns various skills like walking, talking and interacting with others. The use of mother tongue enables the child to express his/her feelings. Inculcation of civic values, like discipline, dedication, honesty, patriotism, obedience, truthfulness, sacrifice and co-operation, help the child in the development of his/her personality. These civic and moral values are called **Sanskaars**.

Try to recall the contribution of your family in bringing you up and helping in developing your personality. Undoubtedly, we owe a lot to our family. In return, we have many duties towards our family. We must respect and obey our parents and elders. We must be co-operative, helpful and loyal to the family. We should take keen interest in our studies and carry on other responsibilities. Let us remember that our parents are not only our well-wishers but also our friend, philosopher and guide.

Community: The School

Another integral part of our community life is **school**. It not only imparts education, but also trains us in the art of community living. In fact, it is education that makes us good human beings, capable of making positive contribution for the betterment of the community.



School

Community: The Neighbourhood

Everything that surrounds us whether living and non-living is a part and parcel of our **neighbourhood**. Every individual as well as community, whether at the village level, city or state level, national or international level, needs a friendly neighbourhood. A good neighbourhood helps to develop strong ties among the individuals.

Community: Economic Development

Early man used to do all his jobs himself because he lived alone. When he started leading a settled life, different people started doing different jobs. Their dependence on one another gave rise to the village community and also to the concept of **division of labour**.



Do You Know?

Division of labour makes our life easy as it increases production, lowers its cost and leads to specialisation.

Earlier, the village activities were limited to hunting, fishing, cattle-rearing and farming. The gradual increase in needs gave rise to different occupations like masonry, carpentry, weaving, tailoring, trading, etc. But agriculture continues to be the major occupation in rural areas till today. At first, people worked for one another in return of goods or services. Later on, they worked in exchange for money. This became the basis of all economic activities



and also the source of livelihood for the people. It was the beginning of economic interdependence.

On the other hand, with the coming up of towns and cities, economic activities in urban areas were different in nature. The towns and cities became the major centres of trade and industry. A chain of economic activities like construction of roads and buildings, trading, manufacturing of goods, etc., started. The services, like health and medical care, education, supply of water and electricity, banking and insurance, have also become essential requirements not only of the urban life but also of the rural living.

Community: Cultural Development

In the early stages of settled life, man had a lot of spare time which he used for roaming around, singing, playing, dancing, painting and other means of entertainment. The expression and feelings of the people living in different environments took the form of hobbies—art and craft, painting, sculpture, architecture, music, dance and literature. These activities kept on changing with time and place. The food habits, dresses, dance forms, paintings, martial arts, games and sports varied from region to region. They were influenced by geographical and climatic conditions. The interaction among the various communities influenced the customs, beliefs and traditions.

DIVERSITY IN INDIA

India is a large country extending from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Arunachal to Ankaleshwar. Variety of climatic conditions, soils, irrigation methods, cultural and religious backgrounds symbolise diversity in various fields. If you try to observe the food habits of people, the clothes they wear and

work they do in different parts of the country, you will clearly notice the variety and diversity of different regions. Even within a region, the lifestyle is very much different in rural and urban areas. It is so because the lifestyle of the people is directly related to their physical surroundings.

Influenced by various historical, geographical, social and economic factors, the diversity in India has provided us a glorious past and a rich cultural heritage. This has paved the way for unity in diversity.

Unity in Diversity

The Indian unity is not something imposed from outside. It is the outcome of our appreciation and tolerance for different beliefs and customs of India. Infact, India's unity in diversity is a unique feature which has always been our source of strength. For example, the harvest festivals are celebrated all over the country at the time of harvesting the crops. The happiness of farmers is expressed through festivals like Baisakhi in Punjab, Onam in Kerala and Pongal in Tamil Nadu. Similarly, Garba Nritya of Gujarat, Behu dance of Assam and Ghoomer of Rajasthan vividly reflect the culture and tradition of the communities of these regions.

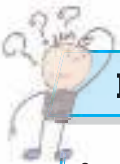
The richness of Indian traditions lies in the belief that all cultures are equal. We Indians feel proud of our rich cultural heritage. Our respect and faith in this cultural diversity has kept India united and integrated.



Inequalities and Constitutional Provisions to Safeguard Them

Unfortunately, increasing social and economic inequalities, both in rural and urban areas, have led to more discrimination in society. There are various reasons for it. In our day to day life, we find that the poor and the downtrodden are being exploited and ill-treated by the rich; the followers of one religion look down upon others; people speaking different languages have issues; the men folk are exploiting the women.

These types of differences cannot be called a **form of diversity**, but they are inequalities, prejudices and discriminations.



Do You Know?

- **Prejudice** means prejudgment, preconceived notions one might have against any region, religion, colour of the skin of an individual, their accent, even the kind of language they speak, or clothes they wear.
- **Discrimination** happens when people act on their prejudices or act in a biased manner, for example, the Britishers discriminated against the Indians, largely because of their prejudices and a feeling of superiority.

Many social reformers, like Raja Ram Mohan Roy, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Bal Ganga Dhar Tilak and many more, have already done a lot to get rid of these inequalities and other social evils, like untouchability, gender bias, unemployment, illiteracy, etc. Even then, many evils are still widespread in India.



Raja Ram Mohan Roy

Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

Swami Dayanand Saraswati

Bal Ganga Dhar Tilak

When the Constitution of India was being framed, our national leaders, kept this in mind. Therefore, they included many such provisions in the Constitution which aim at bringing social, economic and political equality. The Fundamental Rights, like Right to Freedom, Right to Equality, Right against Exploitation, etc., have been incorporated in the Constitution. Similarly, the Directive Principles of State Policy are guidelines to the government at different levels to plan and act upon. These Directive Principles have gone a long way in achieving the national goals of economic and social justice. You will read about this in Class-VII.



Do You Know?

Swami Dayanand Saraswati, a great social reformer, travelled widely across the country. His main mission was to enlighten the people, arouse the spirit of nationalism and bring awareness about equality and dignity of individuals. He was totally against the caste system, the root cause of social inequality and discrimination in Indian society. According to him, all are born equal. So there should be no discrimination on any basis. He strongly advocated the cause of education for all, especially for the upliftment of the women and the downtrodden.

OUR RURAL COMMUNITY

India is mainly a land of villages. Two-thirds of the population of our country lives in villages. These villages represent our rural community. Most of the rural population depends upon agriculture as their means of livelihood.

After independence, India has made tremendous progress in the field of agriculture, industry, power generation and other resources. The impact of this development can be seen in the villages also. Most of the villages are now linked to the cities by roads or railways.



Do You Know?

Green Revolution
White Revolution
Blue Revolution
Yellow Revolution

is related to

grains
milk
fish
oil seeds



Modern Village

The use of electricity has revolutionised the rural life. Television, radio, telephone and different types of home appliances are common in rural areas also. New agricultural implements, fertilisers and finances are easily available. These have helped the farmers to usher **Green Revolution** in the country. It has changed the lifestyle of the rural population.

The construction of dams, bridges, schools and community centres have improved the standard of living of people in rural areas. However, the rapid rise in population has diluted the positive impact of this progress. In spite of the continuous efforts since independence many problems still persist. Many of our villages are still under-developed, unhygienic and without even the basic amenities of life. The villagers also face the problems of inequality, illiteracy, ignorance, rural indebtedness, unemployment and bonded labour. For this, we must stand together and try to solve these problems on war footing. If our villages prosper, India will definitely become economically and socially strong.



Do You Know?

Green Revolution began in India in the mid 1960's to increase production of crops like wheat, rice. M.S. Swaminathan is known as 'The Father of Green Revolution in India'. Punjab was the first state to try the new crops.

The second Green Revolution started in 2009 in Eastern states of India.



OUR URBAN COMMUNITY

Life in towns and cities is comparatively smooth and comfortable. Due to the industrialisation, job opportunities in cities have increased considerably. The basic amenities like drinking water, electricity, dispensaries and hospitals, schools and colleges, availability of goods of daily requirements, food, textiles, hardware, etc., are available in abundance. This has attracted the people from rural areas to come and settle in cities. But, with more and more people from the rural areas, towns and cities have become over-populated and scarce in basic amenities.

In spite of tremendous development in the field of transport, the roads are over-crowded. Disposal of city waste, lack of proper sanitation and drainage, scarcity of clean drinking water, etc., are making the city life difficult.

Unfortunately, the economic and social inequalities are increasing which cause unrest and social tension. How can we meet such challenges? Every community needs a system of governance. In ancient India, it was easily managed through Village *Panchayats*. After independence also, we have similar type of institutions, i.e. *Gram Panchayats* in villages and municipal bodies in cities. In the subsequent chapters, we shall study about the importance of working together to solve our problems.



An Urban City



Do You Know?

- There are about 377 million people living in 7935 towns/cities in India, 31.2% of total population.
- Every third Indian lives in a city.
- Nearly two out of every five people in the cities have no tap water.
- There are more than 1600 languages spoken in India.
- There are more than 100 dance forms in India.



Keywords

- **basic amenities:** simple facilities like drinking water, pollution free environment.
- **bonded labour:** a practice in which employers give huge interest loans to workers whose entire family then labour at low wages to pay off the debt.
- **industrialisation:** the process in which a society or country (or world) transforms itself from a primarily agricultural society into one based on the manufacturing of goods and services.
- **interdependence:** depending on one another for fulfilment of one's needs.
- **untouchability:** an evil practice of considering or treating some people in the society as untouchables or outcaste.