

**Grade: VI SUB: HISTORY**

**DATE: 14.7..20**

**EARLY HUMANS -1**

**I.ANSWER THE FOLLOWING**

**1. Why were early humans always on the move?**

The early humans were always on the move because they had no means to grow food and needed to search for food, water and shelter. They were nomads and had to hunt wild animals and gather fruits, nuts and seeds in order to survive. With the exhaustion of these resources at one place, they moved to another to sustain themselves.

**2. What are sites? Write the names of two Mesolithic and two Neolithic sites.**

Sites are places consisting of significant evidence of any past events or activities.  
  
The Mesolithic sites are Chopani Mando and Damdama in Uttar Pradesh.  
The Neolithic sites are Burzahom site in Kashmir and Khasi, Garo in Assam.

**3. Why did early humans use flint to make tools?**

Early humans used flint to make tools because of the following reasons:  
1. The flint stone chips easily.  
2. It can be moulded into any desired shape.  
3. It is a durable material that does not wear away.  
Hammers, choppers and axe-heads were made out of flint.

**4. Why did early humans paint on cave walls?**

Early humans painted on cave walls because of the following reasons:  
1. To reflect the surrounding and events of their lives through their paintings  
2. Was a recreational activity  
3. To express their feelings and thoughts  
4. For ceremonial occasions  
  
The most common paintings were of wild animals, such as bisons, horses, deers, etc. Hand-painted abstracts were also found in the caves.

**5. Name the periods into which the Stone Age is divided. How were the tools of each of these periods different from one another?**

The Stone Age was divided into three periods. The three periods are as follows:  
1. Palaeolithic or Old Stone Age: This period lasted from early times till about 10,000 BC.  
2. Mesolithic or Middle Stone Age: This period lasted from about 10,000 BC to 8,000 BC.  
3. Neolithic or New Stone Age: This period lasted from 8,000 BC to 4,000 BC.  
  
The characteristics of tools of the above mentioned periods of Stone Age are:  
1. Palaeolithic Age: Crude stone tools were made and used during this period.  
2. Mesolithic Age: The stone tools of this period also known as microliths, were smaller, sharper and more efficient than those of the earlier period. Stone, animal bones and horns were used in this age.  
3. Neolithic Age: The tools of this age were sharper than those of the Middle Age. They were also polished to sparkle.

**6. Write any one technique of tool making.**

One of the techniques of tool making of the early humans was stone on stone.

In this method, the stone that was moulded into a tool was held in one hand. Another stone was held in the other hand. The second stone was rubbed or stroked against the first. This was continued till the first stone acquired the desired shape. In this way a tool was made. This could be used as a weapon or for other purposes.  
Examples of tools were hammers, axe-heads and scrapers.

**7. How was fire useful to the early humans?**

Fire was first discovered by early humans. The method has not been found out. It can be assumed that it happened when two flint stones were rubbed against each other accidentally. Fire was useful to the early humans in the following ways:  
1. Fire provided heat and warmth.  
2. It was used as a source of light.  
3. The early humans kept a fire lighted at the entrance of their caves in order to scare away wild animals.  
4. Fire was used to cook food.  
Thus, the discovery of fire revolutionised the way of life of ancient people.

**8. Write a short note on the painting discovered at Bhimbetka**.

The cave paintings at Bhimbetka in Madhya Pradesh have been an important source of information about the prehistoric era. These caves are named after 'Bhima", one of the five Pandavas of Mahabharata. Various community activities such as birth, burial, dancing, hunting, playing and cooking food have been depicted in the paintings. Wild animals like buffalo, tigers, bisons have been found in the paintings. White pigments, natural red, green and yellow are the common colours of the paintings. The colours were made using powdered rock, along with water and other sticky substances, such as resins from the trees.

**EARLY HUMANS -2**

**1.Why did early humans make pottery? How did they learn to make pottery?**

The early humans made pottery for the following reasons:  
1. To store grains  
2. To store liquids and cooked food  
  
The early humans learnt to make pottery out of clay. They were initially made by making a hole into a ball of clay or by making a long snake with the clay and coiling it up to make pottery. These were then baked in fire. The potter's wheel helped them to make pots of various sizes and shapes.

**2.How do we get to know about the existence of early farmers?**

The existence of early farmers are known to us by the discovery and excavation of sites. Mehrgarh in Pakistan was the earliest site where evidences of farmers and their settlements were found. The evidences dates as early as 7,000 BC. Charred grains and sickles have been found, which prove that humans had started cultivating crops by this time.

**3.Write a short note on Daojali Hading.**

Daojali Hading is a Neolithic site in Assam. Neolithic Age extended from 8,000 BC to 4,000 BC. Archaeological excavations have led to the digging up of various tools and evidences. These are polished stone tools, ceramics, kitchen items such as mortar, pestles and corn grinders. Many pots had also been dug up. These evidences prove that early humans used to cultivate crops as a source of food and store them in pots.

**4.How did agriculture change the life of early humans?**

The early humans initially used to hunt wild animals and gather fruits and nuts from the trees. This was the source of their food. When resources at one place were exhausted, they moved to another place. They lived like nomads. But agriculture changed their lives. They started to grow crops at one place. Cultivating crops and harvesting them after a certain time required them to stay at one place. Therefore, they no longer moved from one place to another in search of food, water and shelter. They built settlements near the crop lands, cultivated fields, made weapons and stone tools and pottery. They also started domesticating animals for various purposes.

**5. How was the invention of wheel an important step towards progress for early humans?**

The invention of wheel was an important step towards progress for early humans in the following ways:  
1. Transportation from one place to another became faster and easier.  
2. Moving heavy objects and taking them from one place to another became convenient.  
3. The making of pottery became easier. The use of potter's wheel enabled early humans to make pots of various sizes and shapes. These pots were used for storing grains, liquid and for cooking food and grains.

**6. Describe the pit-houses found at Burzahom.**

Burzahom in Srinagar, Kashmir is a site where many pit-houses have been found. Stone tools were used to dig circular pits in the ground, which were then plastered on the sides using mud. The pits were generally broad at the base and narrow near the opening. The pits had steps that led to the bottom. These were roofed over to make them suitable to live in. Pit-houses were made to enable the early humans to withstand the cold. Some of the pit houses had clay or stone ovens, which were used for cooking food.

**7. Write short notes on – Daily life of early humans, Mehrgarh Period I.**

Daily life of early humans: The early humans lived in groups that had leaders. The most elder or the strongest member of the group was selected as the leader. Each member had separate tasks to perform. Some were responsible for harvesting crops, some to take care of the animals, some to make pots. The surplus crops were exchanged with other groups through barter system. The popular modes of entertainment were singing, dancing and painting.  
  
Mehrgarh: Mehrgarh in Pakistan is the earliest known site of farming and pastoral settlement of early humans in the Indian Subcontinent. The earliest evidence of settlement here dates back to as early as 7,000 BC. It has been assumed that this was the site where early humans first cultivated crops and domesticated animals. Charred grains, sickles and bones of animals were found, which proved that early humans grew crops and settled here.  
  
Period I: This period extended from 7,000 BC to 5,500 BC. Wheat and barley were the crops that were cultivated in this period. Bones of animals have been found in the sites and shows that cattle, sheep and goats were domesticated. The houses were simple, square- and rectangular-shaped mud houses. Pottery was not found. But several burial sites were found, many of which contained ornaments, limestone, stone axes, turquoise and sandstone along with animals and women figures.

**8. Why do you think the dead were buried with burial goods?**

The dead were buried with burial goods such as tools, ornaments, pottery, etc. This was because of the following reasons:  
1.The early human beings believed in after-life. It was their belief that the dead would have a smooth after-life with their personal possessions present in the grave.  
2.The burial goods were also given as a sacrifice to the ancestors.  
3. This discouraged the reuse of the possessions by other people.

**9. Which according to you were a greater revolution–early humans becoming food-producers or early humans taming animals or early humans making pottery? Give reasons to justify your answer.**

Early humans becoming food-producers was a greater revolution than taming animals or making pottery.   
This is because of the following reasons:  
1. The early humans were hunter-gatherers. They moved from one place from another in search of food, water and shelter. The cultivation of crops was a shift as they no longer had to live a nomadic life. They settled near the fields. This made their lives stable.  
2. The dependence on natural sources ceased. They produced their own food, on which they survived.  
3. Taming animals and making pottery followed after the beginning of agriculture. These were required to sustain their agricultural way of life. Animals were used for grazing and also as draft animals. Pottery was required to store grains and liquids. These were not revolutions. Agriculture led onto the invention and practice of domestication and pottery. Thus, the foundation of civilisation was laid.