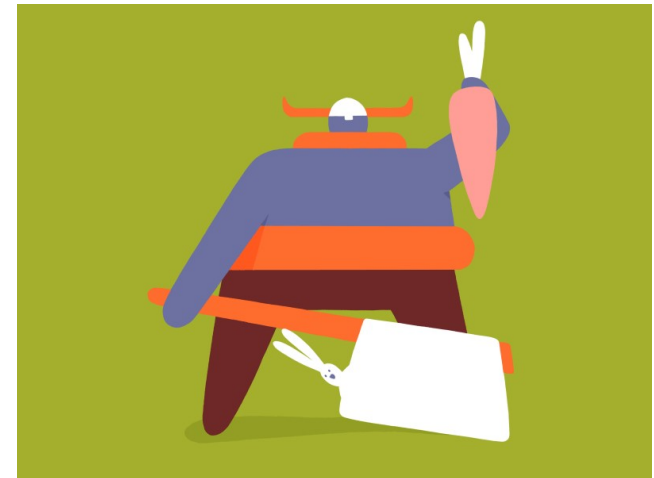
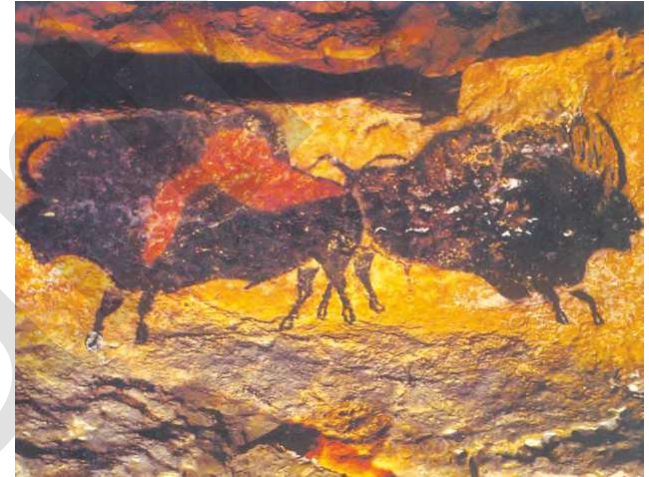


CLASS VI

FROM HUNTING – GATHERING TO GROWING FOOD

CHAPTER - 2

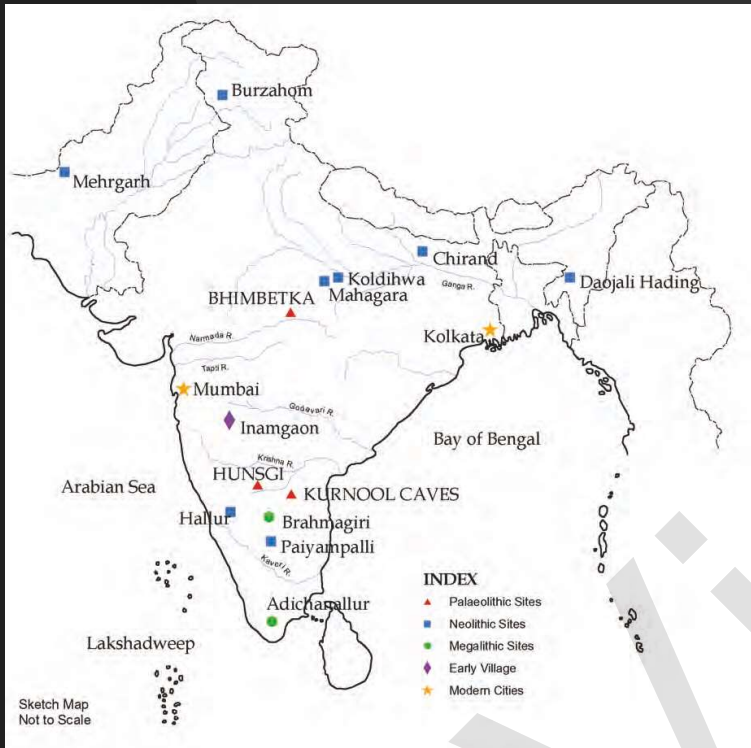
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- The earliest people: why were they on the move?
- How do we know about these people?
- Choosing a place to live in
- Finding out about fire
- A changing environment
- The beginnings of farming and herding
- A new way of life
- Towards a settled life
- A closer look — Living and dying in Mehrgarh
- Did things change everywhere and all at once?

❖ The earliest people: why were they on the move?

- We know about people who lived in the subcontinent as early as two million years ago.
- hunter gatherers - The name comes from the way in which they got their food.
- **hunter-gatherers moved from place to place.**



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❖ Reasons



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❖ Reasons

- Staying at same place leads to exhaustion of food resources.
- Animals also moved in search of pray and so the hunters followed their movements.
- Many plants are seasonal, therefore people had to move to different place in search of food.
- People living near seasonal water bodies had to move when the water bodies dries in extreme weather (summers).

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❖ How do we know about these people?

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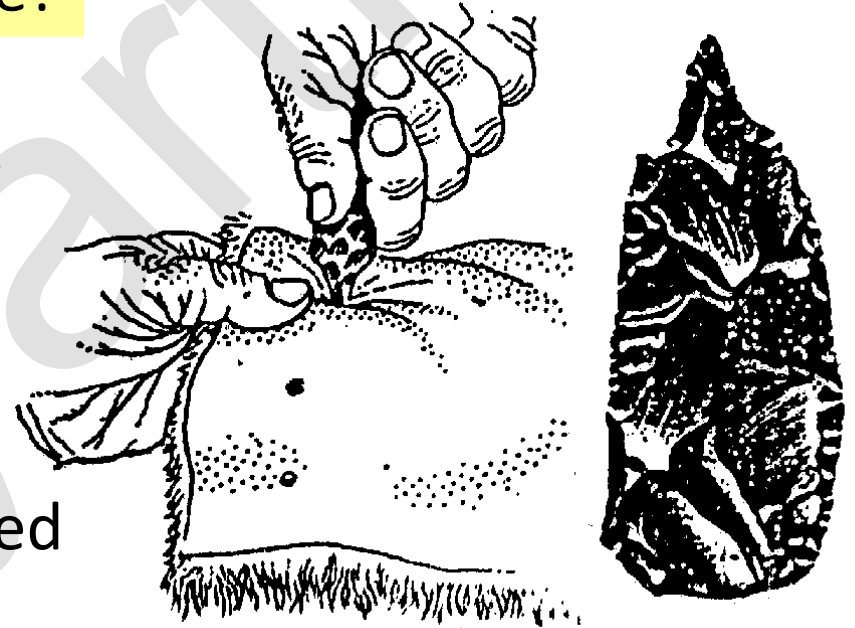


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❖ How do we know about these people?

- Archaeologists have found some of the things hunter-gatherers made and used.
- It is likely that people made and used tools of stone, wood and bone, of which stone tools have survived best.

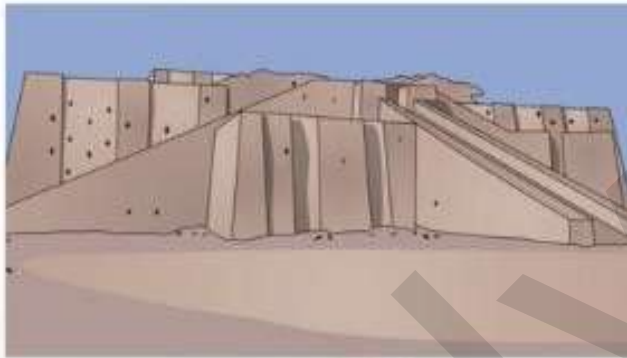


Digging the ground to collect edible roots.

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❑ Choosing a place to live in

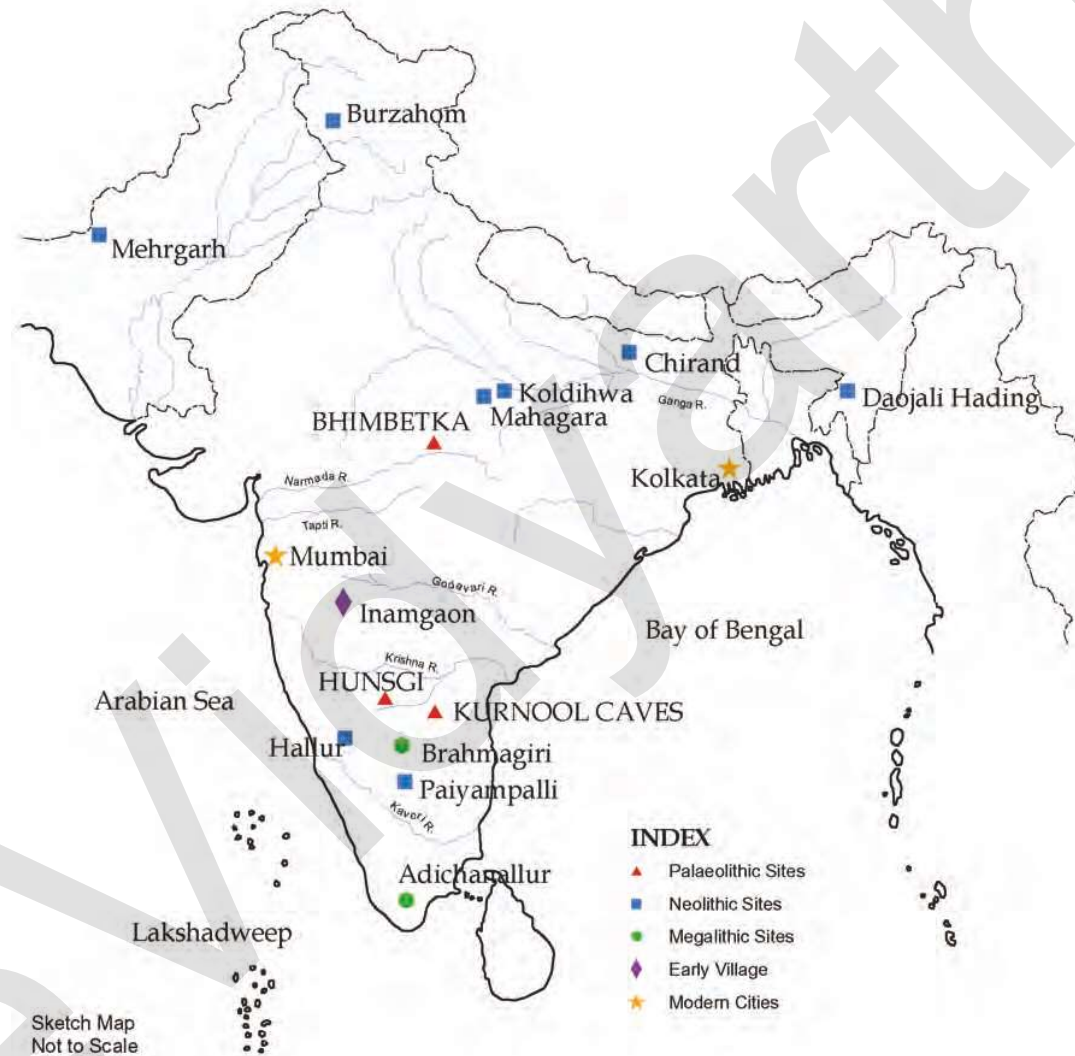


❑ Choosing a place to live in

- Many sites of hunter-gatherers were located near sources of water, such as rivers and lakes.
- Places where stone was found and where people made tools are known as factory sites.
 - Sometimes, people lived here for longer spells of time. These sites are called habitation-cum-factory sites.

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☐ Finding out about fire

Finding out about fire

- One of the biggest discoveries made by man was fire.
- Fire could have been used for many things: as a source of light, to roast meat, and to scare away animals.

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❖ A changing environment



❖ A changing environment

- Around 12,000 years ago, the temperature of the world started increasing.
- In many areas, this led to the development of grasslands.
- This increased the number of deer, antelope, goat, sheep and cattle, i.e. animals that survived on grass.

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- People started thinking about herding and rearing these animals themselves.
- Fishing also became important.

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❖ The beginnings of farming and herding



❖ The beginnings of farming and herding

- This was also a time when several grain bearing grasses, including wheat, barley and rice grew naturally in different parts of the subcontinent.
- People gathered these food and in process learned where they grew, when they ripened.

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- People often select the animals and plants to be domesticated by them. This process of domestication began some 12,000 years ago.
- The first animal to be tamed was the wild ancestor of the dog.
- Virtually all the plant and animal produces which we eat today are the result of Domestication.

- Domestication is the process of adapting wild plants and animals for human use. Domestic species are raised for food, work, clothing, medicine, and many other uses. Domesticated plants and animals must be raised and cared for by humans. Domesticated species are not wild.

❑ 'Storing' animals

- Animals multiply naturally. Besides, if they are looked after carefully, they provide milk, which is an important source of food, and meat, whenever required.
- In other words, animals that are reared can be used as a 'store' of food.

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❖ A new way of life

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Neolithic Age / New Stone Age



❖ A new way of life

- Growing plants take time, so when people started farming, they had to stay at same place for a longer period of time.
- Also, when the grains are ripped and cut, they needed to be used and stored carefully. In many areas, they began making large clay pots, or wove baskets, or dug pits into the ground.

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❖ Finding out about the first farmers and herders



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❖ Finding out about the first farmers and herders

- The archaeologists have found evidence of early farmers and herders.
- These are found all over the subcontinent.
- Some of the most important ones are in the north-west, in present-day Kashmir, and in east and south India.

To prove that these settlements belonged to farmers and herders, scientists study the evidences of plants and animals.

Scientists have found burnt grain at these sites. These grains could have been burnt accidentally or purposefully. Also, bones of different animals are found.

Based on these finds scientists confirm that a number of crops plants and animals existed in different parts of India sub-continent.

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❖ Towards a settled life



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❖ Towards a settled life

Archaeologists have found traces of huts or houses at some sites. For instance, in Burzahom (in present-day Kashmir) people built pit-houses, which were dug into the ground, with steps leading into them. These may have provided shelter in cold weather.

- found cooking hearths both inside and outside the huts
- Due to difference in tool from early ag, which we call Paleolithic age, this era is termed as Neolithic era.

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- Stone tools of Neolithic era.



■ Stone tools of Neolithic era.

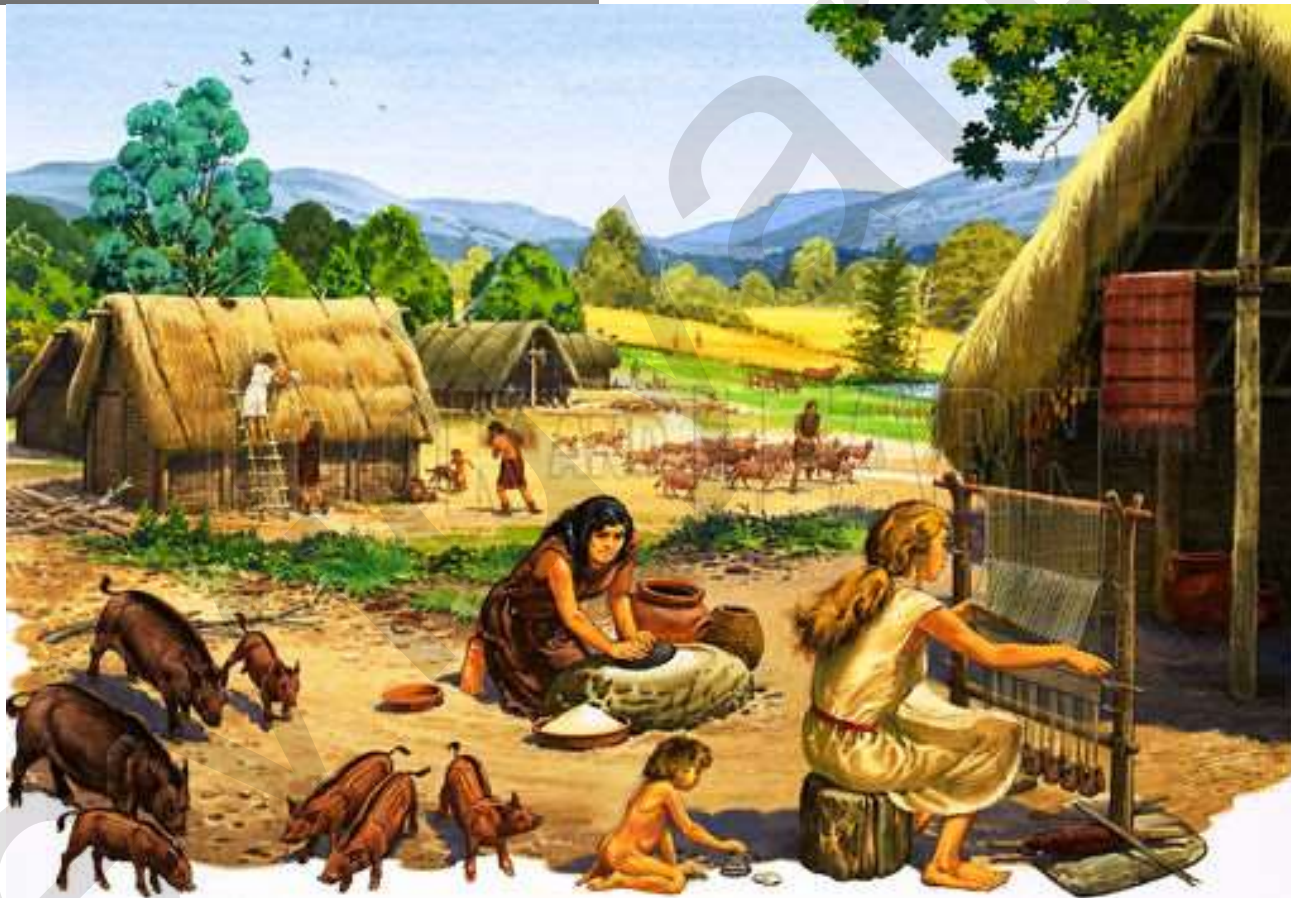
- Tools were polished to give a fine cutting edge.
- Mortars and pestles used for grinding grain and other plant produce.
- At the same time, tools of the Paleolithic types continued to be made and used.
- Axes, Scrapers, Blades are some examples of Neolithic tools.



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■ Lifestyle of Neolithic people



■ Lifestyle of Neolithic people

Many kinds of earthen pots have also been found.

- These were sometimes decorated and were used for storing things.
- People began using pots for cooking food, especially grains like rice, wheat and lentils that now became an important part of the diet.

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Besides, they began weaving cloth, using different kinds of materials, for example cotton, that could now be grown.

A closer look — Living and dying in Mehrgarh

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A closer look — Living and dying in Mehrgarh

- Mehrgarh is an important site of Neolithic age.
- It is located in a fertile plain, near the Bolan Pass, which is one of the most important routes into Iran.
- probably one of the places where people learnt to grow barley and wheat, and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this area.

■ finds at Mehrgarh

- Bones of animals such as the deer, pig, sheep and goat were found.
- remains of square or rectangular houses, with four or more compartments, some of which may have been used for storage.
- Concept of after life - burial sites have been found at Mehrgarh, with offerings such as goats.

❖ Did things change everywhere and all at once?

Not really, In many areas, men and women still continued to hunt and gather food, and elsewhere people adopted farming and herding slowly, over several thousand years.

Besides, in some cases people tried to combine these activities, doing different things during different seasons.