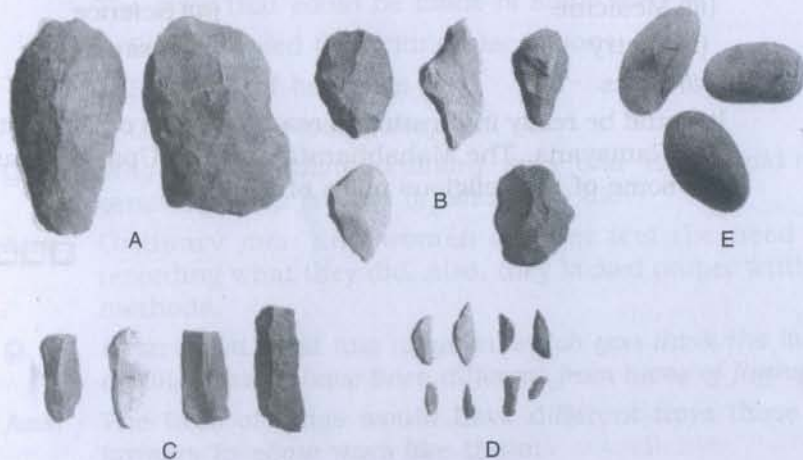


2

On the Trail of the Earliest People

Lesson at a Glance

- People who lived in the subcontinent about 2 million years ago were **Hunter-gatherers**. They hunted wild animals and gathered plant produce to get their food. They moved from place to place, in search of more food, water and resources.
- Hunter-gatherers made and used various types of tools—tools of stone, wood and bone.



Stone tools used by early man

- **Habitation** refers to the place where people lived.
- **Stone tools** were made using different techniques like stone on stone (using a stone to give required shape to another stone) and pressure flaking.
- Fire was used by the early people. They used fire as a source of light, to cook meat and to scare away animals.
- **Grasslands** developed in many areas due to change in climate around 12000 years ago. **Herding**, and **rearing animals** and **fishing** became common.
- Several grain bearing grasses, like wheat, barley, rice grew naturally in different parts of the subcontinent. The people also began growing plants on their own.

- Many old caves have paintings on their walls. They show wild animals and are drawn with great accuracy and skill.



A painting from a rock shelter

- In Hunsgi, a number of early Palaeolithic sites have been found. A large number of tools were also found, most of which were made of limestone.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

Let's Recall

Q. 1. Complete the sentences:

- Hunter-gatherers chose to live in caves and rock shelters because
- Grasslands developed around years ago.
- Early people painted on the of caves.
- In Hunsgi, tools were made of

Ans. (a) they wanted to protect themselves from wild animals and bad weather.
 (b) 12,000
 (c) walls
 (d) limestone.

Q. 2. Look at the present-day political map of the subcontinent on page 136 of the textbook. Find out the states where Bhimbetka, Hunsgi, and Kurnool are located. Would Tushar's train have passed near any of these sites?

Ans. Bhimbetka — Madhya Pradesh
 Hunsgi — Karnataka
 Kurnool — Andhra Pradesh
 Tushar's train would have passed near Bhimbetka, Hunsgi and Kurnool, since they all lie on the possible train route from Delhi to Chennai.

Let's Discuss

Q. 3. Why did the hunter-gatherers travel from place to place? In what ways are these similar to/different from the reasons for which we travel today?

Ans. Hunter-gatherers travelled from place to place for four basic reasons which are as follows: (also see flow-learning).

- (i) If they stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant and animal resources. Therefore, they went to another place for more food.
- (ii) Animals move from place to place. Humans followed them as they hunted them.
- (iii) Plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons. So when season changed, people moved to another place.
- (iv) In search of water, people travelled from place to place. Water is necessary for survival.

However, nowadays we travel for different purposes, like:

- (i) **Education.** We travel to schools.
- (ii) **Work.** We travel to work.
- (iii) **Business.** People travel from place to place for business purposes.
- (iv) **Entertainment.** We travel from one place to another to amuse and entertain ourselves, like going to a circus, a zoo or sightseeing.

Q. 4. What tools would you use today for cutting fruit? What would they be made of?

Ans. Today, for cutting fruit, we would use modern tools like knives, which are made of iron or steel.

Q. 5. List three ways in which hunter-gatherers used fire. Would you use fire for any of these purposes today?

Ans. Hunter-gatherers used fire for purposes like:

- (i) A source of light
- (ii) A resource of cook meat
- (iii) A way to scare away wild animals.

Nowadays we use fire for:

- (i) Cooking
- (ii) To keep ourselves warm.

Let's Do

Q. 6. Make two columns in your notebook. In the left hand column, list the foods hunter-gatherers ate. In the right

hand column, list some of the foods you eat. Do you notice any similarities/differences.

Ans.

| Column I Food eaten by early man | Column II Food eaten by modern man |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves, stalks, eggs, meat | Processed food like bread, pizza, ice-cream, etc. along with unprocessed food like fruit. |

Differences between the two eating habits: Today, we largely eat processed and cooked food, whereas the early people did not cook their food. They ate everything raw.

Q. 7. If you had a natural pebble like the ones shown on page 13 in the textbook, what would you use it for?

Ans. Today, we would like to use such pebbles for chopping fruits and roots.

Q. 8. List two tasks that are performed by both men and women at present. List another two that are performed only by women, and two that are performed only by men. Compare your list with that of any two of your classmates. Do you notice any similarities/differences in your lists?

Ans. Two tasks that are performed by both men and women:

- (a) Teaching
- (b) office jobs

Two tasks that are performed by only men:

- (a) Mining
- (b) Working in a shipyard

Two tasks that are performed by only women:

- (a) Nursing
- (b) Looking after home and health

Compare your lists yourself.

