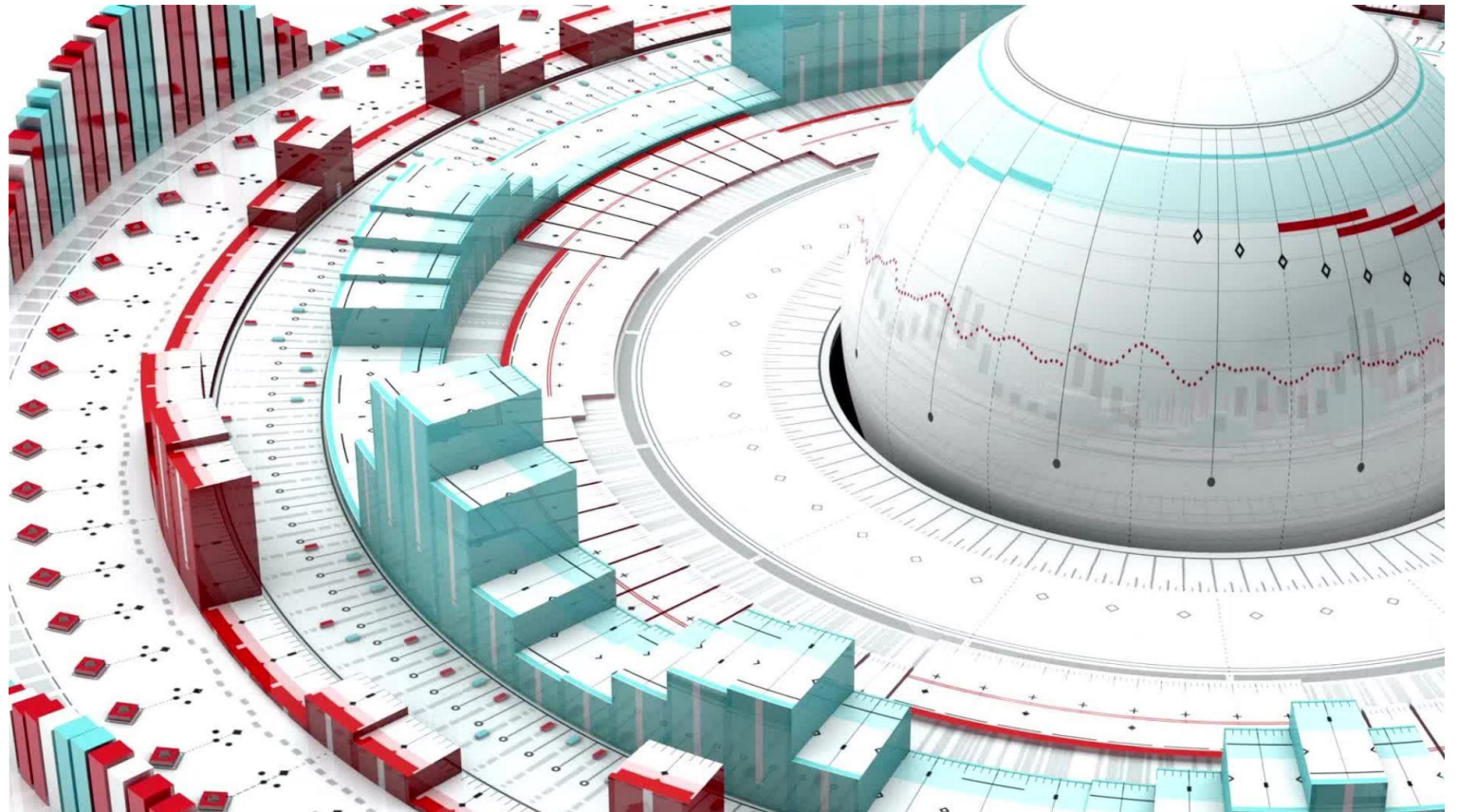


Timeline and Sources of History

CLASS VI

SUBJECT: HISTORY

CHAPTER: 4



The Big Questions?

1. How do we measure historical time?
2. How can various sources help us understand history?
3. How did early humans live?



History

History: The study of the human past.



Many people study the history of the Earth.



Some of them are trained to uncover the secrets left beneath the Earth's surface and help us learn about its past — and also our past. Can you name them.

Let's know about - Geologists and Palaeontologists

- Geologists study the physical features of the Earth, like the soil, stones, hills, mountains, rivers, seas, oceans and other such parts of the Earth.
- Palaeontologists study the remains of plants, animals and humans from millions of years ago in the form of fossils.



Anthropologists and Archaeologists

Anthropologists study human societies and cultures from the oldest times to the present.

Archaeologists study the past by digging up remains that people, plants and animals left behind, such as tools, pots, beads, figurines, toys, bones and teeth of animals and humans, burnt grains, parts of houses or bricks, among others.

Gregorian calendar

- The calendar now used the world over; it has 12 months adding up to 365 days, and a leap year every four years.
- However, century years — for example, 1800, 1900, 2000 — are leap years only if they are multiples of 400; so in the three centenary years above, only 2000 is a leap year.



The changes
in the
terminology
used to refer
to years in
the Western
calendar
system.

The Western calendar traditionally starts from the birth of Jesus Christ.

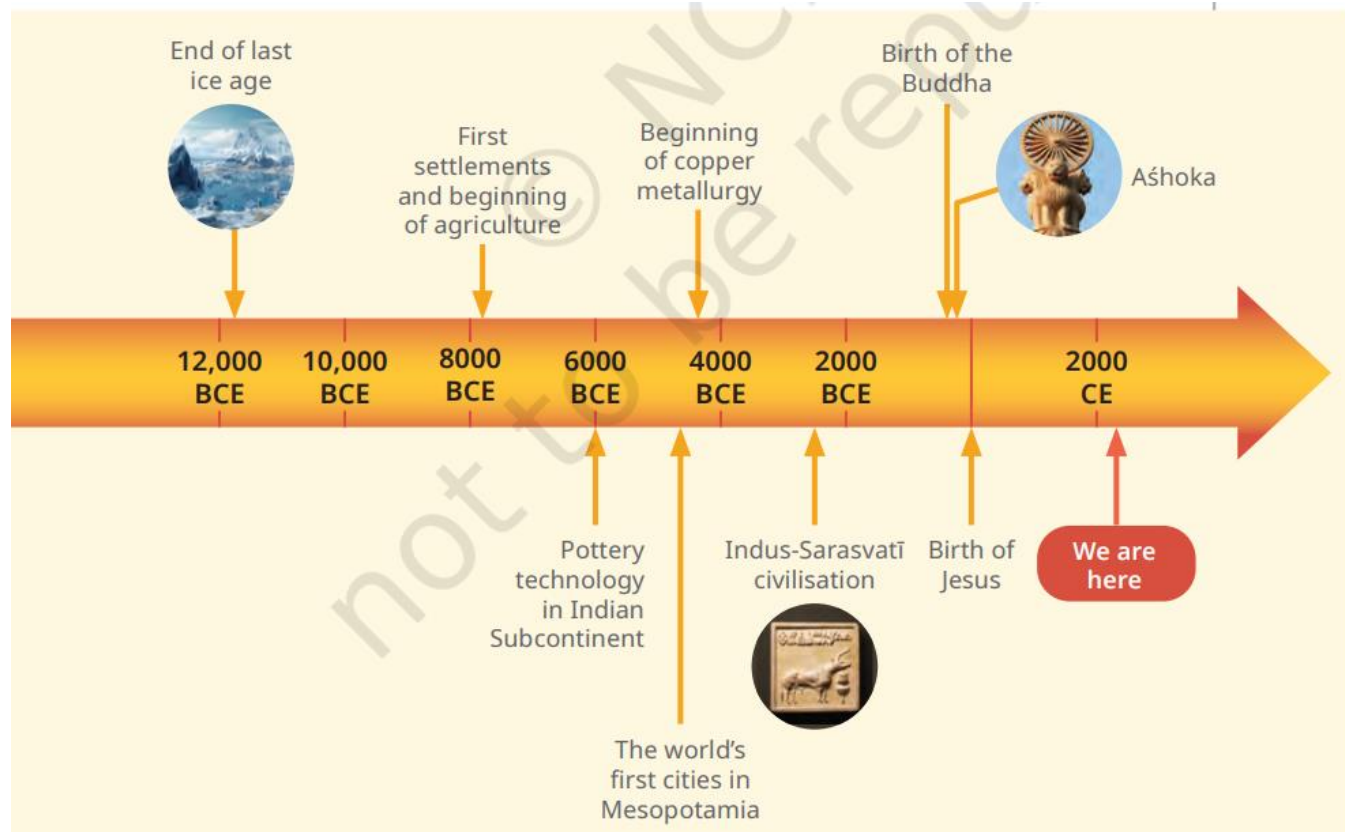
Years after Jesus' birth were previously marked as "AD" (Anno Domini) but are now written as "CE" (Common Era).

Years before Jesus' birth were marked as "BC" (Before Christ) but are now written as "BCE" (Before Common Era).

For example, 1947, the year India gained independence, can be written as 1947 AD or 1947 CE.

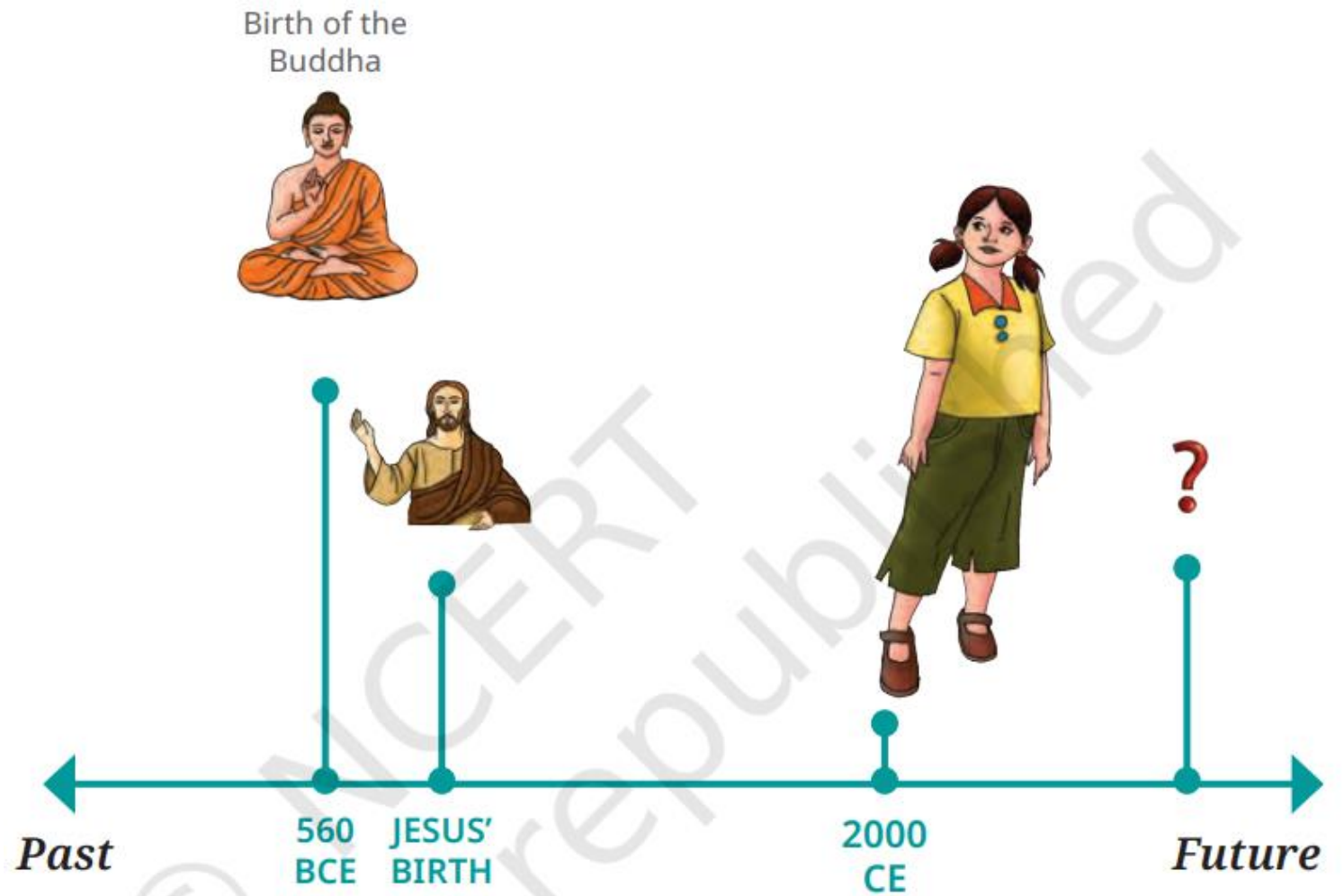
The approximate birth year of Gautama Buddha is 560 BCE.

A timeline also helps in understanding the order in which historical events take place.



A timeline is a convenient tool to mark such events, as it shows a sequence of dates and events covering any particular period.

It runs from the beginning of humanity to the present, with a few important landmarks



There are different ways of measuring time: decades, centuries, millenniums.

Decade - It is a period of ten years

Century: It is any period of 100 years.

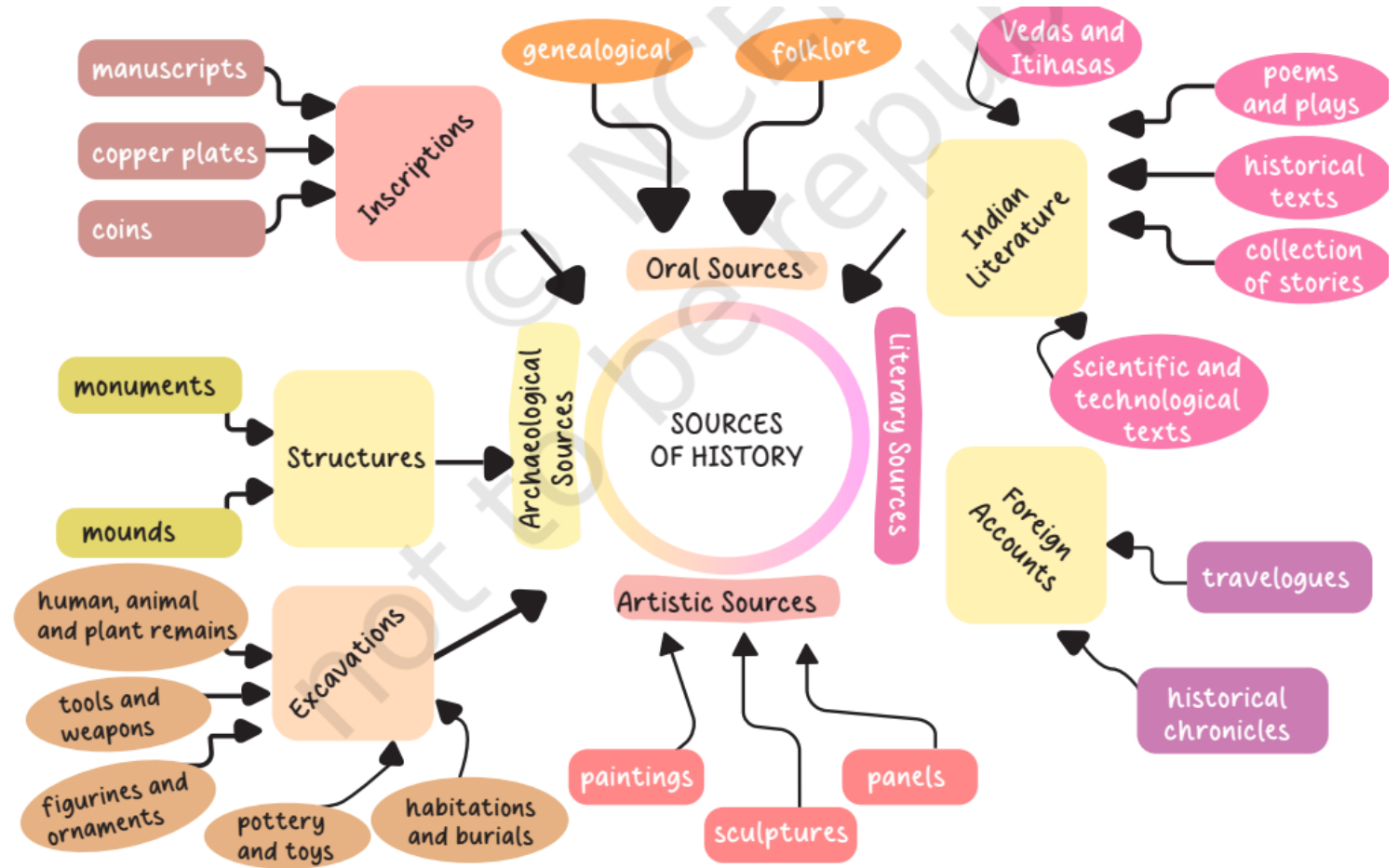
Millennium: It is any period of 1,000 years



DON'T MISS OUT

- Do you know how calendars have been traditionally made in India?
 - Many Indian calendars rely on the positions of the sun and the moon to define the months of the year.
 - A pañchāṅga is a book of tables which lists the days of each month along with related astronomical data; for instance, it precisely predicts events like solar and lunar eclipses, times for sunrise and sunset, etc.
 - Pañchāṅgas, still widely used in India, often also give weather predictions for the year, dates and timings of festivals, and more.
-

Main sources of history



Who contributes to all these sources of history?

- Historians themselves, but also archaeologists, epigraphists (who study ancient inscriptions), anthropologists (who study human societies and their cultures), experts in literature and languages, and some more.
- In addition, in the last 50 years or so, scientific studies have been contributing more and more to the reconstruction of the past.
- For example, studies of ancient climates, chemical studies of excavated materials and studies of the genetics of ancient people have provided fresh insights, which supplement the more usual sources.
- And when historians study recent history (which usually means the last two or three centuries), another source is newspapers; for the last few decades, electronic media (television, the internet, etc.) can also be consulted.



How did early humans live, and what were their main challenges?



Early humans lived in bands or groups to help each other face challenges from nature.



They were primarily hunters and gatherers, relying on hunting animals and collecting edible plants and fruits for food.



Their main challenges included constantly seeking shelter and food for survival.



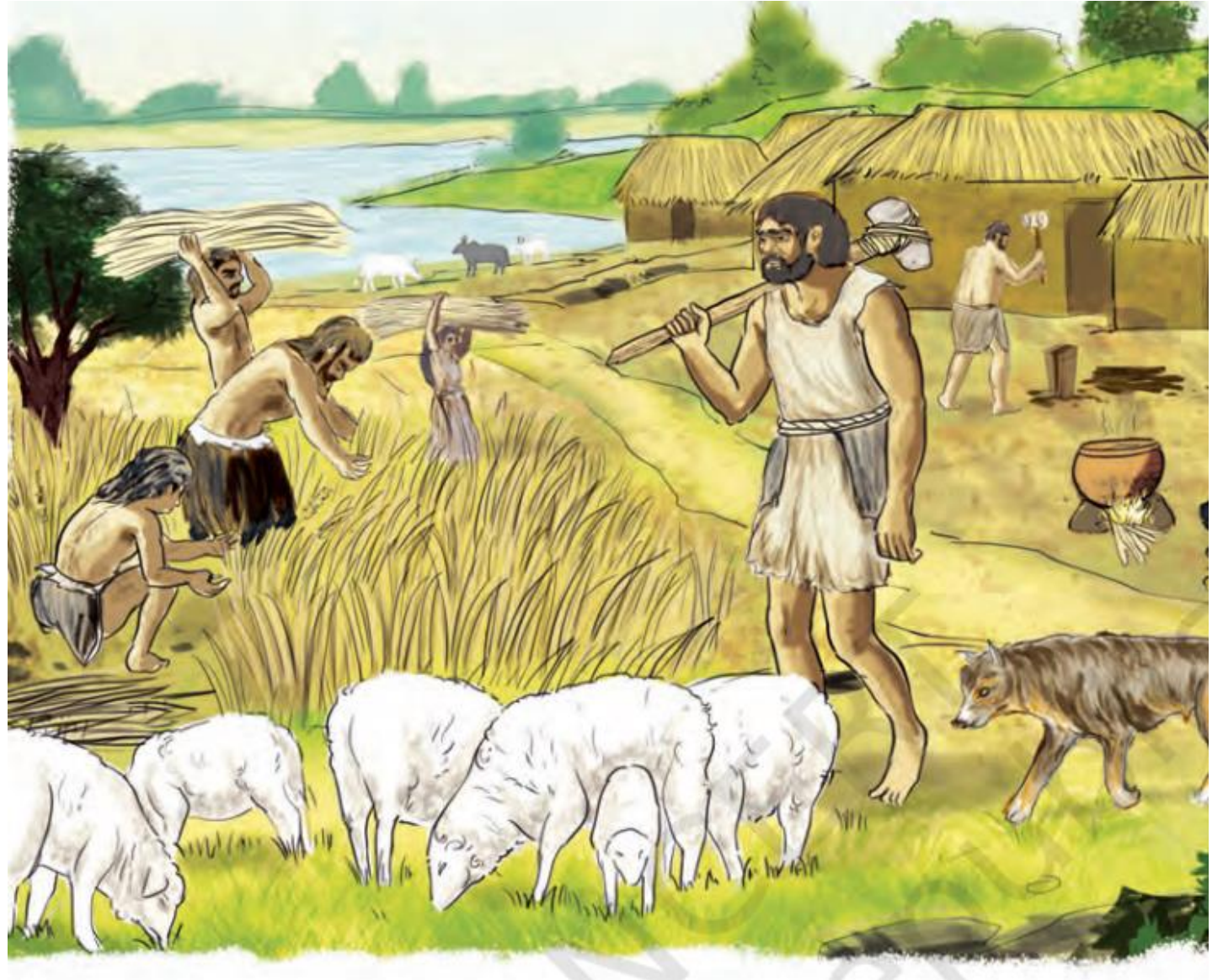
They likely had some beliefs about natural elements and possibly concepts of the afterlife.

The changes in the Earth's climate after the Ice Age and their impact on human society.

- After the last **Ice Age**, which lasted from over **100,000 years ago** to **around 12,000 years ago**, the Earth's climate began to warm up, leading to the **melting of ice**.
- This melting caused **rivers to swell**, and eventually, the waters drained into the oceans, altering the landscape.
- With **warmer conditions**, human living conditions improved, and they started to **settle down** in one place.
- Humans began **cultivating cereals and grains**, as well as **domesticating animals** such as cattle, goats, and other livestock.
- As food supplies became more abundant, human **communities grew** in size and number. Many of these communities chose to settle near **rivers**, not only for access to water but also because **fertile soil** near rivers made it easier to grow crops.
- 4o mini



The following pic depicts an agricultural community from a few millenniums ago.



The growth of social complexity and technological advancements in early communities.

- As communities grew, their social organization became more **complex**. Leaders, called **chieftains**, were responsible for the welfare of the people, and everyone worked collectively for the good of the community.
- **Individual ownership** of land was not practiced; instead, land was **collectively sowed and harvested** for the benefit of all.
- Over time, **hamlets** evolved into larger **villages**, which started exchanging goods like **food, clothing, and tools**.
- These villages formed **networks of communication and trade**, and some even developed into **small towns**.
- New **technologies** emerged during this time, such as **pottery** for creating containers and other clay objects, and the use of **copper** and later **iron** for making **durable tools**, daily-use items, and **ornaments**.



THANK YOU