

CLASS 9 • CHAPTER 4

EARLY HUMANS & THE BEGINNING OF CIVILISATION

NCERT Social Science • Part 1



EARLY HUMAN ANCESTORS

- Humans evolved in Africa about 7 million years ago
- Early ancestors: Australopithecus, Homo habilis, Homo erectus
- Tool use marked a major leap in human progress



ARCHAEOLOGICAL AGES

1

STONE AGE

Stone tools shape survival

2

BRONZE AGE

Metalworking transforms
society

3

IRON AGE

Stronger tools expand
kingdoms

THE STONE AGE, IN THREE MOVEMENTS

PALEOLITHIC

Old Stone Age — Hunt • gather • move

MESOLITHIC

Middle Stone Age — Adapt • refine • settle

NEOLITHIC

New Stone Age — Farm • build • grow

HUNTER-GATHERERS



- Hunted animals and gathered wild plants
- Used hand axes, cleavers and other stone tools
- Lived in small mobile groups
- Moved often in search of food and shelter

THE MESOLITHIC PERIOD



- Climate warmed after the Ice Age
- Microliths: smaller, finely worked tools
- Dogs were among the first animals domesticated
- Settlements became more permanent

THE NEOLITHIC REVOLUTION



- Farming and domestication transformed food supply
- Polished stone tools improved daily work
- Pottery and woven cloth became common
- Villages expanded as population grew

FARMING & DOMESTICATION



- Cultivated wheat, barley and other crops
- Domesticated cattle, sheep and goats
- Food surplus supported population growth
- Settled life encouraged specialised work



SINDHU—SARASVATI CIVILISATION

- Flourished along the Sindhu and Sarasvati rivers
- Harappa and Mohenjodaro were carefully planned
- Baked bricks, drainage and trade linked urban life
- Its writing system remains undeciphered



MESOPOTAMIAN CIVILISATION

- Grew between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers
- Cuneiform writing recorded trade and ideas
- Ziggurats rose as monumental temple towers
- Irrigation, agriculture and trade flourished



EGYPTIAN CIVILISATION

- Life centred on the Nile River
- Hieroglyphs combined pictures and sounds
- Pyramids served as royal tombs
- Religion emphasised gods and the afterlife



CHINESE CIVILISATION

- Developed along the Yellow River (Huang He)
- Oracle bones preserved early writing and divination
- Bronze tools and weapons became widespread
- Strong centralised kingdoms emerged



FROM STONE TO CITY

THANK YOU

Questions?

Early Humans and the Beginning of Civilisation

