



CLASS XI
HISTORY

FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME

In this module we shall cover the following sub topics:

- (a) The uses of Fire
- (b) Early Humans: Making Tools
- (c) Modes of Communication: Language and Art
- (d) Early Encounters with Hunter-Gatherers in Africa
- (e) Hunter-Gatherer Societies From the Present to the Past

Text book link : Please refer to the ncert textbook Theme 1 <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?kehs1=1-4>

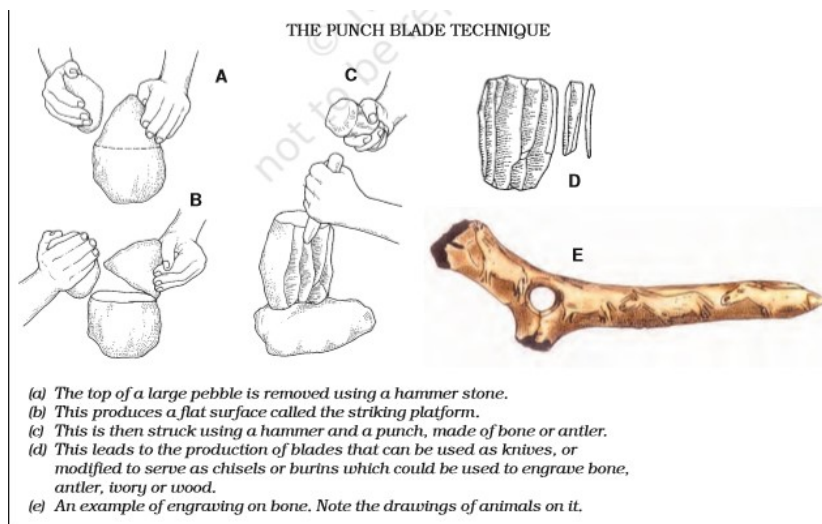
Please read these notes and attempt the given Assignment in The History Notebook/ Register

THE USES OF FIRE

- To provide warmth and light inside caves
- To harden wood
- To provide warmth and light inside caves
- To scare away dangerous animals
- For cooking
- For flaking tools

EARLY HUMANS: MAKING TOOLS

- The earliest evidence for the making and use of stone tools comes from sites in Ethiopia and Kenya.
- The earliest tool makers were the Australopithecus.
- About 35,000 years ago, there were changes in human tool making. New kinds of tools such as spear-throwers and the bow and arrow were used for killing animals.
- The earliest evidence of sewn clothing comes from about 21,000 years ago.
- The punch blade technique was introduced to make small chisel-like tools. It was now possible to make engravings on bone, antler, ivory or Wood



MODES OF COMMUNICATION: LANGUAGE AND ART

- .Hominid language involved gestures or hand movements
- Spoken language was preceded by vocal but non verbal communication
- Human speech probably began with calls among primates

WHEN DID SPOKEN LANGUAGE EMERGE ?

I View: The brain of Homo habilis had certain features which would have made it possible for them to speak. Thus language may have developed as early as 2mya.

II View : The evolution of vocal tract was equally important. This occurred around 200,000 years ago

III View: Language developed around the same time as art, that is, around 40,000-35,000 years ago.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF ART (PAINTING)

- Hundreds of paintings have been discovered in the caves of Lascaux (/la-sko/) and Chauvet(/show-vay/)in France and Altamira in Spain
- These include depictions of bison,horses,ibex,deer,mammoths,rhinos, lions bears, panthers, hyenas and owls
- Altamira cave was first brought to the attention of Marcelino Sanz de Sautuola , a local landowner by his daughter Maria in November 1879

We have no idea why these paintings were made ? However we may assume the following

- One of the explanations for these paintings is ritual. The act of painting was a ritual to ensure a successful hunt

- Another explanation is that these caves were meeting places for small groups of people or locations for group activities. They shared hunting techniques and knowledge.
- Paintings and engravings served as the media for passing information from one generation to the next.

EARLY ENCOUNTERS WITH HUNTER-GATHERERS IN AFRICA

KUNG SAN

- Kung San, a hunter-gatherer society living in the Kalahari desert:
- An African pastoral group contacted Kung San in 1870
- Kung San were very afraid of them and would hide whenever we came around.
- They found their villages, but they were always empty because as soon as they saw strangers coming, they would scatter and hide in the bush.
- Without killing or fighting the Kung San easily surrendered

HAZDA

- 'The Hadza are a small group of hunters and gatherers, living in the vicinity of Lake Eyasi, a salt, rift-valley lake
- Animals are exceptionally numerous. All of these animals, apart from the elephant, are hunted and eaten by the Hadza
- Vegetable food – roots, berries, the fruit of the baobab tree, etc. – though not often obvious to the casual observer, is always abundant even at the height of the dry season in a year of drought.
- Sources of water are widely distributed over the country in the wet season but are very few in the dry season
- The Hadza consider that about 5-6 kilometres is the maximum distance over which water can reasonably be carried and camps are normally sited within a kilometre of a water course.
- Camps are invariably sited among trees or rocks and, by preference, among both

HUNTER-GATHERER SOCIETIES FROM THE PRESENT TO THE PAST

Can ethnographic data about living hunters and gatherers be used to understand past societies ?

CAN BE BE USED

Some archaeologists have suggested that the hominid sites, dated to 2 mya, along the margins of Lake Turkana could have been dry season camps of early humans, because such a practice has been observed among the Hadza and the !Kung San.

CANNOT BE USED

- Present-day hunter-gatherer societies pursue several other economic activities along with hunting and gathering. These include engaging in exchange and trade in minor forest produce, or working as paid labourers in the fields of neighbouring farmers.

- These societies are totally marginalised in all senses – geographically, politically and socially.
- There is tremendous variation amongst living hunter-gatherer societies.
There are conflicting data on many issues such as the relative importance of hunting and gathering, group sizes or the movement from place to place. Both men and women are contributing to the food supply

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PALEOLITHIC PERIOD & NEO LITHIC PERIOD

PALEOLITHIC	NEOLITHIC
1. Old Stone Age	New Stone Age
2. 20000 BCE to 10000 BCE	10000 BCE to 4000 BCE
3. Unpolished stones	Polished stones
4. Hunting	Domestication of Animals
5. Food Gathering	Agricultural production
6. Nomadic	Settled Life
7. Bands of 20 – 30 members	Tribes
8. No Private property	Private Property

Key Words and their Meanings

Fossils

Fossils are the remains or impressions of a very old plant, animal or human which have turned in to stone. They are often embedded in rock, and are thus preserved for million years.

Species

Species is a group of organisms that can breed to produce fertile offspring. Members of one species cannot mate with those of other species to produce fertile offspring.

Anthropology

Anthropology is a discipline that studies human culture and evolutionary aspects of human biology.

Artefacts

Artefacts are objects that are made by human beings. The term can refer to a wide range of things- tools, paintings, sculpture, and engravings.

Primates

Primates are a sub group of a larger group of mammals they include monkeys, apes and humans. They have body hair, a relatively long gestation period following birth, mammary glands, different types of teeth, and the ability to maintain a constant body temperature.

Ethnography

Ethnography is the study of contemporary ethnic groups It includes an examination of their modes of livelihood, technology gender roles, rituals, political institutions and social customs

ASSIGNMENT

Q1.Examine the Punch blade technique of tool making

Q2.List the uses of fire.

“We live in the present , learn from the past and plan for the future”

Stay home , Stay Safe