

4

Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation

The Big Questions (Page - 61)**1. How did humans live on Earth before the beginning of civilisation?**

Ans. Before the beginning of civilisation, humans lived a simple and nomadic life as hunter-gatherers.

- They lived in small groups and moved from place to place in search of food and water.
- Their food came from hunting animals, fishing, and gathering fruits, nuts, and roots.
- They lived in caves or temporary shelters made of natural materials.
- They used simple stone tools and discovered the use of fire.
- They wore clothes made from animal skins and leaves.

Thus, early humans were completely dependent on nature and did not have permanent settlements.

2. How did humans communicate before writing was invented?

Ans. Before writing was invented, humans communicated in simple and natural ways:

- They used gestures and body language such as hand movements and facial expressions.
- They communicated through sounds and spoken words (early forms of language).
- They made drawings and paintings on cave walls to express ideas and events.
- They used symbols and signs to convey messages.

Thus, early humans communicated using gestures, sounds, and pictures before the development of writing.

3. How is archaeology helpful in understanding our past?

Ans. Archaeology is very helpful in understanding our past because it studies the remains of early human life.

- Archaeologists study artifacts such as tools, pottery, coins, and jewellery.
- They examine fossils, bones, and ancient buildings to learn about how people lived.
- It helps us understand food habits, clothing, culture, and occupations of early humans.
- It provides information about civilisations where no written records exist.

Thus, archaeology helps us learn about human history by studying physical remains from the past.

4. How did early civilisations interact with each other?

Ans. Early civilisations interacted with each other mainly through trade and cultural exchange.

- They exchanged goods like metals, grains, pottery, and textiles.
- Trade routes (land and river routes) helped in the movement of people and goods.
- People shared ideas, technologies, and skills, such as tools and farming methods.
- Cultural elements like art, beliefs, and writing systems also spread between civilisations.

Thus, early civilisations were connected through trade and exchange, which helped in their growth and development.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 62)

You have studied about the Harappan script in your previous grades. Observe this seal carefully and discuss why the script has not yet been deciphered. Also, find out what efforts have been made to decipher it. You can use your textbook, consult your teacher, or refer to online sources.

Ans.

- **The Harappan script has not been deciphered due to several reasons:**
 - The inscriptions are very short, usually containing only a few symbols.
 - There is no bilingual inscription available to help in decoding.
 - The language used by the Harappans is unknown.
 - The symbols are not clearly understood (whether they represent sounds, words, or ideas).
- **Efforts made to decipher the Harappan script:**
 - Scholars have tried to link it with Dravidian and other ancient languages.
 - Computer analysis has been used to study patterns in the symbols.
 - Archaeologists continue to discover new seals and inscriptions.
 - Comparisons have been made with other ancient civilisations like Mesopotamia.

Conclusion: The Harappan script remains undeciphered due to lack of sufficient evidence. However, continuous research may help in understanding it in the future.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 65)

Why do you think early humans left Africa to migrate to other regions?

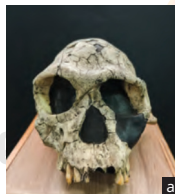
Ans. Early humans left Africa and migrated to other regions for several important reasons:

- **Search for food:** They moved in search of animals to hunt and plants to gather.
- **Climate changes:** Changes in weather made some areas too hot, cold, or dry to live in.
- **Population growth:** Increasing population led to a need for more space and resources.
- **Curiosity and exploration:** Humans gradually explored new lands over time.

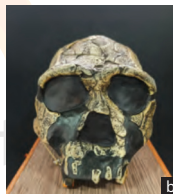
Thus, early humans migrated from Africa mainly to find better living conditions and resources.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 66)

a. *Homo habilis* lived in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania and Kenya, 2-6 million years ago; made chopper stone tools



b. *Homo erectus* lived in the Eastern African Rift Valley 2 million years ago; made handaxes and cleavers.



c. *Homo neanderthalensis* lived in Europe and Southwest Asia till about 40000 years ago; made Middle Palaeolithic flake tools.



d. Living humans, or the *Homo sapiens*, are the only human species living today on earth.



Let us observe the images given above and answer the following questions.

- Do you notice any changes in the shape or features of the skulls across different ancestors?
- Can you observe a gradual straightening of the face?

Ans. By observing the given images of skulls (from *Homo habilis* to *Homo sapiens*), we can notice the following changes:

1. Changes in shape and features of skulls

- The size of the brain (skull) gradually increases over time.
- The forehead becomes higher and more rounded in later humans.
- The jaw becomes smaller and less protruding.
- The teeth become smaller compared to earlier humans.
- The face becomes flatter in modern humans.

2. Gradual straightening of the face: Yes, there is a gradual straightening of the face:

- Early humans had a sloping face and heavy jaws.
- Over time, the face became less projecting and more vertical.
- In Homo sapiens, the face is almost straight and well-developed.

Conclusion: These changes show the evolution of humans, with improvements in brain size, facial structure, and overall development from early ancestors to modern humans.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 67)

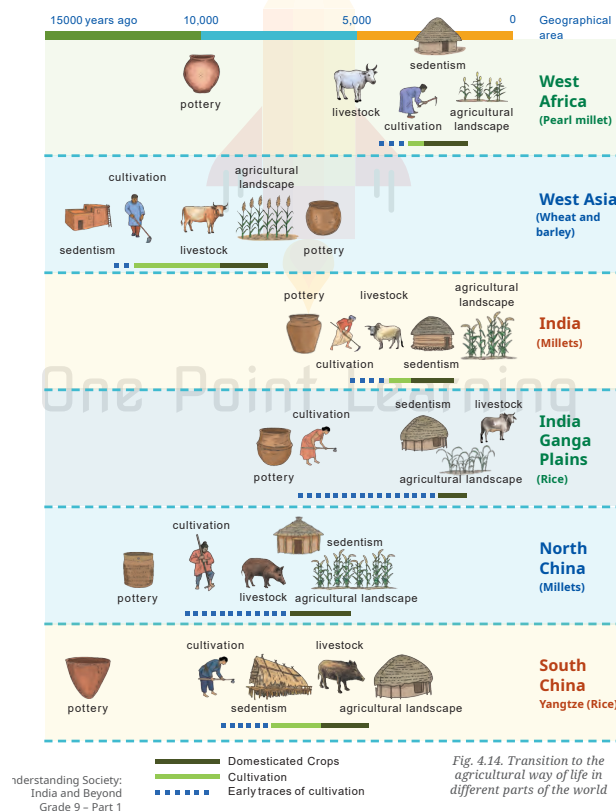
Why do you think the shift to farming during the Neolithic period is called a revolution rather than a simple change? Discuss with your classmates.

Ans. The shift to farming during the Neolithic period is called a revolution because it brought major changes in all aspects of human life—food, settlement, society, and economy.

- It occurred relatively quickly compared to the long period of hunting and gathering.
- It led to permanent settlements, surplus food, population growth, and division of labour.
- These changes eventually resulted in the rise of civilisations.
- Like the Industrial Revolution, it completely transformed human life.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 71)

Observe the chart (Fig. 4.14) and identify the animals that were domesticated. Also try and identify the types of human habitats and objects that were used. Are any of these still used in present times?



Ans. Based on the chart (Fig. 4.14), different aspects of early agricultural life can be identified:

- **Domesticated Animals (Livestock):** The chart shows that early humans domesticated animals such as cattle (cows/oxen) in regions like West Africa, West Asia, and India. In North and South China, pigs were also domesticated. These animals were important for food, farming, and other daily uses.
- **Types of Human Habitats (Sedentism):** The chart depicts various types of early permanent settlements. These include thatched round huts made of mud and grass, commonly seen in many regions. In West Asia, mud-brick rectangular houses with flat roofs were used. In South China, people lived in long wooden or bamboo houses with sloping roofs.

- **Objects and Tools Used:** Early humans used pottery, such as pots and jars, for storing food and water. They also used simple agricultural tools like digging sticks and hoes for cultivation.
- **Use in Present Times:** Many of these practices continue even today. Livestock like cattle and pigs are still widely used. Pottery is still used for storage and cooking in some places. Basic hand tools are still used by farmers, and traditional types of houses can still be found in rural and tribal areas.

Thus, the chart shows that many early developments of the Neolithic period continue to influence modern life.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 76)



Harappans had their own standard systems of weight and measurement. This is evident from the meticulously planned settlements and efficient interregional trade practices of the Harappans. They followed a binary multiple (1, 2, 4, 8, 16, etc.) system for weighing smaller units and used multiples of ten for larger denominations. Such cubical stone weights have been reported from several sites. Can you imagine how long-distance trade would have been affected had the Harappans not followed a standard system of weights?

Ans. The Harappans followed a standard system of weights and measurements, which was very important for trade. If they had not followed such a system, long-distance trade would have been difficult and confusing.

Without standard weights:

- Traders in different regions would use different measures, leading to misunderstandings.
- There would be unfair trade practices, as people could cheat by using incorrect weights.
- It would reduce trust between traders, making exchange of goods harder.
- Trade across distant regions would become slow and inefficient.
- Therefore, the Harappan system of standardized weights helped in smooth, fair, and efficient trade, especially over long distances.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 77)

Why were rivers important in the growth of early civilisations?

Ans. Rivers were very important in the growth of early civilisations for several reasons:

- **Water supply:** Rivers provided a constant source of water for drinking and daily use.
- **Fertile soil:** Flooding of rivers deposited rich alluvial soil, which was ideal for farming.
- **Agriculture:** Availability of water made it easier to grow crops and produce surplus food.
- **Transport and trade:** Rivers acted as natural routes for travel and exchange of goods.
- **Settlements:** People preferred to settle near rivers because they supported stable living conditions.

Conclusion: Thus, rivers played a key role in the development and prosperity of early civilisations by supporting agriculture, trade, and human settlement.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 79)

Can you find out which countries constitute West Asia in present times?

Ans. The countries that are part of West Asia (Southwest Asia) in present times include:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| • Saudi Arabia | • United Arab Emirates (UAE) | • Qatar | • Kuwait |
| • Oman | • Yemen | • Iraq | • Iran |
| • Jordan | • Israel | • Lebanon | • Turkey |

Conclusion: These countries together form the region known as West Asia, which is historically important as the cradle of many early civilisations like Mesopotamia.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 80)

Do you find any similarities between the temples in India and those of the Sumerian civilisation as centres of socio-cultural and economic activity?

Ans. Yes, there are several similarities between temples in India and those of the Sumerian civilisation as centres of socio-cultural and economic activity:

- Both served as religious centres where people worshipped their gods.
- They acted as centres of social life, where people gathered for rituals and community activities.
- Temples were also economic centres, storing surplus grains and wealth.
- They played a role in administration and organisation of society.
- In both cases, temples supported craftsmen, traders, and workers, contributing to economic growth.

Thus, temples in both regions were not only places of worship but also important centres of social, cultural, and economic life.

LET US RECALL (Page - 82)

The cuneiform writing system was contemporary to the Harappan script, but while cuneiform has been deciphered, the Harappan script has not yet been deciphered. Do you think our understanding of a civilisation changes when its script is deciphered compared to when it is not?

Ans. Yes, our understanding of a civilisation changes greatly when its script is deciphered.

- **When a script is deciphered (like Cuneiform):**
 - We can read written records, such as laws, trade documents, and literature.
 - It helps us understand the language, beliefs, and daily life of people.
 - We get accurate knowledge about administration, economy, and culture.
 - For example, deciphering cuneiform revealed detailed information about Mesopotamian civilisation.
- **When a script is not deciphered (like Harappan script):**
 - We must rely only on archaeological evidence like tools, buildings, and artefacts.
 - Many aspects such as language, beliefs, and governance remain unclear.
 - Our understanding is limited and based on guesses or interpretations.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 71)

The Epic of Gilgamesh, written during the Mesopotamian civilisation, is one of the earliest stories written. Try and find out more such stories and share them in class.

Ans. Apart from the Epic of Gilgamesh, there are several other early stories from ancient civilisations:

- **The Story of Sinuhe (Ancient Egypt):** A tale about an Egyptian official who flees his country and later returns, showing themes of loyalty and homeland.
- **The Tale of the Shipwrecked Sailor (Ancient Egypt):** A story of a sailor who survives a shipwreck and meets a magical serpent on an island.
- **Enuma Elish (Mesopotamia):** A creation myth that explains how the world and gods were formed.
- **The Descent of Inanna (Mesopotamia):** A myth about the goddess Inanna's journey to the underworld.
- **Rigvedic Hymns (Ancient India):** Early religious verses that include stories of gods, nature, and creation.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 85)

Why do you think there is a scale with a heart on one side and a feather on the other (fig. 4.29)? What can this papyrus tell us about early Egyptian beliefs?



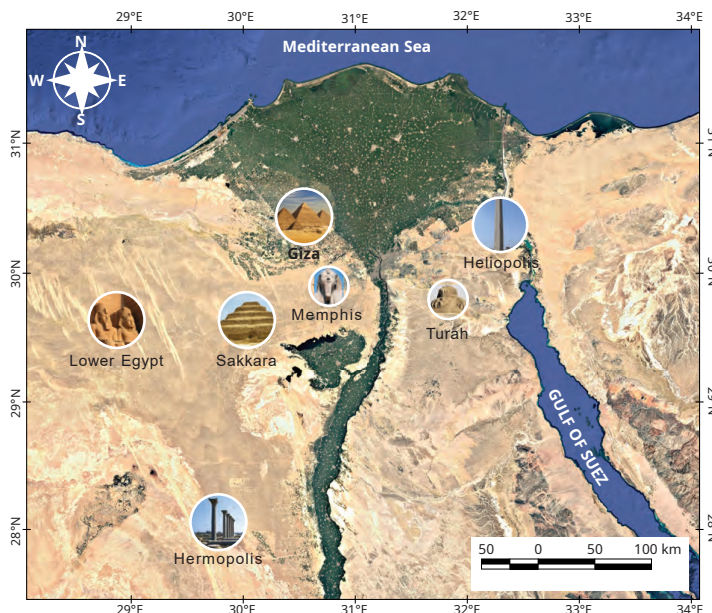
Ans. The scale shows the belief of judgment after death in ancient Egypt.

- The heart represents a person's actions and character.
- The feather represents truth and justice (Ma'at).
- After death, the heart was weighed against the feather:
 - If the heart was light, the person was allowed to enter the afterlife.
 - If the heart was heavy, the person was punished.

What does this papyrus tell us about early Egyptian beliefs?

- Egyptians believed in life after death.
- They believed in judgment based on one's deeds.
- Truth, honesty, and justice were very important in their lives.
- Religion played a central role in society.

Conclusion: The papyrus shows that early Egyptians believed in moral living and judgment after death, where a person's fate depended on their actions in life.

LET'S MAP (Page - 86)

Can you locate the River Nile on the given map? Why do you think the northern part is called Lower Egypt and the southern part Upper Egypt?

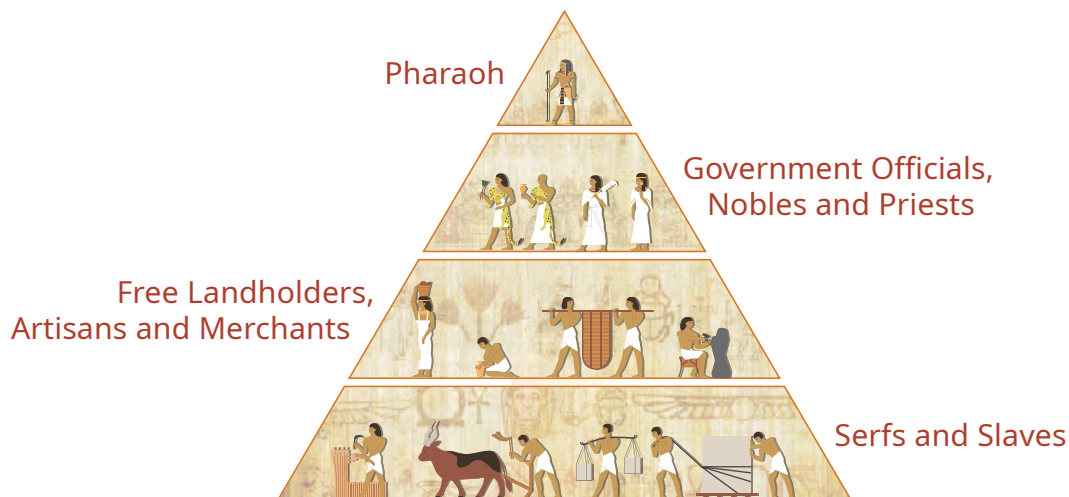
Ans. Yes. The River Nile flows through northeastern Africa, mainly in Egypt, from south to north into the Mediterranean Sea.

Why Lower Egypt is in the north and Upper Egypt in the south:

- The naming is based on the direction of the Nile's flow, not compass directions.
- The river flows from higher land in the south to lower land in the north.

So, the southern region (upstream) is called Upper Egypt, and the northern region (downstream, delta area) is called Lower Egypt.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 87)



Look at the social hierarchy pyramid in the image. What were the social classes of early Egypt? What were the different kinds of occupations? What could have been a typical daily routine of the people from each class?

Ans. The pyramid in the image shows that Egyptian society was divided into different levels:

1. Social Classes in Early Egypt

- Pharaoh (top ruler)
- Government officials, nobles, and priests
- Free landholders, artisans, and merchants
- Serfs and slaves (lowest class)

2. Occupations of Each Class

- Pharaoh: Ruled the kingdom, made laws, and was considered a god.
- Officials, nobles, priests: Managed administration, collected taxes, performed religious duties.
- Artisans and merchants: Made goods (pottery, tools, jewellery) and traded them.
- Farmers (landholders): Grew crops and supplied food.
- Serfs and slaves: Did hard labour like farming, construction, and serving others.

3. Typical Daily Routine

- Pharaoh: Attended meetings, performed religious rituals, supervised the kingdom.
- Officials/Priests: Managed records, collected taxes, conducted ceremonies in temples.
- Artisans/Merchants: Crafted goods, worked in workshops, traded in markets.
- Farmers: Worked in fields, irrigated land, harvested crops.
- Serfs/Slaves: Did heavy labour such as building, farming, and domestic work.

Conclusion: The social hierarchy in early Egypt was well-organised, with each group having specific roles that helped in the smooth functioning of society.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 88)

Observe the images given above. What do they tell you about Egyptian fashion?

- Which social classes do you think used these items?
- What clues in the images help you to make this guess?

Try to explain your reasoning based on the materials, designs, or accessories shown in the pictures.

Ans. What the Images Tell Us About Egyptian Fashion

1. Egyptian Fashion and Lifestyle:

- The images show simple, practical items like sandals, baskets, and pottery.
- Footwear like sandals made from plant fibers (papyrus or reeds) suggests people preferred light and comfortable clothing suited to a hot climate.
- The designs on pottery show that Egyptians also liked decoration and artistic patterns.

2. Which Social Classes Used These Items:

- Sandals: Likely used by middle and upper classes; poorer people may have gone barefoot.
- Basket and pottery: Used by almost all classes, especially farmers, artisans, and merchants for storage and daily work.

3. Clues from Materials and Design:

- The use of natural materials like reeds and clay shows that Egyptians depended on the River Nile's resources.
- The simple weaving and basic shapes suggest everyday use rather than luxury.
- However, the painted designs on pottery indicate that even daily items had aesthetic value.

Conclusion: These images show that Egyptian fashion and daily items were practical, climate-friendly, and made from natural materials, with some attention to beauty and craftsmanship, especially among higher classes.

LET'S EXPLORE (Page - 90)

The Chinese script is logographic, with characters representing entire words or morphemes (smallest meaningful units of language), rather than sounds. **Person Tree**

Explore more examples of Chinese characters that resemble the objects or ideas they represent. Note down at least two such characters and explain how their shapes are connected to their meanings.

Ans. The Chinese script is logographic, meaning each character represents a word or meaning, not a sound.

Examples:

- 人 (Rén) = Person – the character looks like a person standing with two legs spread apart.
- 木 (Mù) = Tree – the character shows a trunk with branches above and roots below.
- 山 (Shān) = Mountain – three peaks side by side, resembling mountain tops.
- 日 (Rì) = Sun – originally a circle with a dot in the centre, representing the sun.

These characters show how early Chinese writing directly depicted the physical world around people.

THINK ABOUT IT (Page - 71)

What could have been the other reasons for building the Great Wall of China? Explore and share your findings on the Great Wall through a model or presentation.

Ans. The Great Wall of China was not built only for protection from invasions. It served several other important purposes:

1. Border Control and Security

- Helped control who entered and left the empire.
- Prevented illegal migration and smuggling.

2. Trade Regulation

- Protected important trade routes like the Silk Road.
- Allowed the government to tax goods and traders passing through.

3. Communication System

- Watchtowers were used to send signals using smoke (day) and fire (night).
- Messages about enemy movements could travel quickly across long distances.

4. Military Strategy

- Provided high ground for soldiers to observe enemies.
- Acted as a strong defensive barrier during battles.

5. Symbol of Power and Unity

- Showed the strength and organization of the Chinese empire, especially under rulers like Qin Shi Huang.
- Helped unify different regions under one rule.

LET'S RECALL (Page - 92)

Do you remember studying about the Silk Route in Grade 7? How was India connected with it? Can you recollect China's contact with India with reference to Buddhism that you studied in Grade 7?

Ans. The Silk Route was a network of ancient trade routes connecting Asia, Europe, and Africa.

India's Connection with the Silk Route:

- India was an important part of the Silk Route.
- Trade routes passed through the north-western parts of India.

India exported goods such as:

- Spices
- Cotton textiles
- Precious stones

India imported:

- Silk from China
- Horses from Central Asia
- Indian cities became major centres of trade and cultural exchange.
- China's Contact with India through Buddhism

Spread of Buddhism:

- Buddhism originated in India and spread to China through the Silk Route.
- Traders and monks carried religious ideas along with goods.

Role of Chinese Pilgrims:

- Chinese monks like Xuanzang and Faxian visited India.
- They studied at centres like Nalanda University.
- They took Buddhist texts and teachings back to China.

Result:

- Buddhism spread widely in China.
- Strong cultural and religious links developed between India and China.

Questions and activities (Page - 93-94)

1. Do you think life became easier or more challenging after humans started farming? Give two reasons for your answer.

Ans. Life became both easier and more challenging after humans started farming.

- **Two reasons:**

- i. It became easier because people had a steady and reliable food supply, so they did not have to move from place to place in search of food.
- ii. It became more challenging because farming depended on weather and natural conditions, and crop failure could lead to food shortages.

2. The environment offers human societies both opportunities as well as challenges. Explain with reference to early farming communities and river-valley civilisations.

Ans. The environment offered both opportunities and challenges to early farming communities and river-valley civilisations.

- **Opportunities:**

- i. Rivers provided water for irrigation, which helped in growing crops.
- ii. Flooding of rivers deposited fertile silt, making land suitable for agriculture.
- iii. Availability of water and fertile land led to permanent settlements and growth of cities.

- **Challenges:**

- i. Floods could become destructive, damaging crops, homes, and settlements.
- ii. Droughts or irregular rainfall could lead to crop failure and food shortages.
- iii. People had to develop systems like irrigation and flood control, which required planning and cooperation.

3. Why do historians divide early human history into different ages such as Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age? What does this classification tell us about human progress?

Ans. Historians divide early human history into the Stone Age, Bronze Age, and Iron Age based on the materials used to make tools and weapons.

- **Why this division is made:**

- i. It helps to organise and study history in a clear way.
- ii. Changes in tools show important developments in technology and lifestyle.
- iii. Each age represents a stage of human development.

- **What this classification tells us about human progress:**

- i. Humans progressed from using simple stone tools to stronger metal tools like bronze and iron.
- ii. There was improvement in skills, knowledge, and technology.
- iii. Societies became more advanced, with better farming, trade, and living conditions.

4. Imagine you are a Neolithic farmer. Describe one day of your life. What challenges would you face that a hunter-gatherer would not?

Ans. I wake up early in my small mud house as the sun rises. My family and I live in a village near a river. After eating some grains, I go to the fields with simple tools made of stone and wood. I spend hours ploughing the land, sowing seeds, and watering crops. Later, I take care of animals like goats and cattle.

In the afternoon, I help in grinding grains and storing food for the future. Before sunset, I check the crops again and repair fences to keep animals away. At night, we sit together, eat simple food, and rest.

- **Challenges I face (unlike hunter-gatherers):**

- i. I must stay in one place and cannot move if crops fail.
- ii. Farming depends on weather and rainfall, which can destroy crops.
- iii. I have to do hard physical work every day to grow food.

5. Imagine that the Harappan script gets deciphered tomorrow. What new types of information do you think historians might learn?

Ans. If the Harappan script is deciphered, historians could learn many new and important details about the Indus Valley Civilisation.

• **Possible Information Historians Might Discover:**

- i. **Language and Writing:** The actual language spoken by the Harappans and how their writing system worked.
- ii. **Administration and Government:** Details about rules, laws, and leadership of their cities.
- iii. **Trade and Economy:** Clear records of trade with other regions and goods exchanged.
- iv. **Religion and Beliefs:** Information about their gods, rituals, and religious practices.
- v. **Daily Life:** Insights into people's occupations, social structure, and lifestyle.
- vi. **Names and Places:** Names of cities, rulers, or important individuals.

6. Prepare a table with three columns—Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic—and fill in their distinctive features: tools, settlements, art, and subsistence.

Ans. Differences between Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic Ages:

Features	Palaeolithic Age (Old Stone Age)	Mesolithic Age (Middle Stone Age)	Neolithic Age (New Stone Age)
• Tools	- Rough stone tools (hand axes, choppers)	- Smaller, sharper tools (microliths)	- Polished stone tools, sickles, axes
• Settlements	- No permanent homes; lived in caves or moved constantly	- Semi-nomadic; temporary shelters	- Permanent settlements; villages
• Art	- Cave paintings (animals, hunting scenes)	- Rock art with more details	- Pottery, weaving, and simple art forms
• Subsistence	- Hunting animals and gathering food	- Hunting, fishing, and gathering	- Farming and domestication of animals

7. "Bronze Age civilisations developed independently but shared common features." Examine this statement with reference to the civilisations given in the chapter.

Ans. Bronze Age civilisations developed in different regions independently, but they shared common features such as:

- Bronze Age civilisations **settled near rivers** for water and fertile land.
- They **practised agriculture** as their main occupation.
- They **used bronze tools and weapons**, which improved efficiency.
- They **developed cities and trade** for economic growth.
- They **had social hierarchies**, with different classes in society.
- They **created writing systems** for communication and record-keeping.
- They **followed religious beliefs** and performed rituals.

Thus, even without direct contact, they showed similar patterns of development.

8. Although rivers provided many benefits, they also created challenges for early societies. Discuss both the advantages and disadvantages of settling near rivers.

Ans. Rivers played a very important role in early societies, offering both advantages and disadvantages.

• **Advantages of Settling Near Rivers:**

- i. **Water Supply:** Provided a constant source of water for drinking and daily use.
- ii. **Fertile Soil:** Floods deposited rich silt, making land ideal for farming.
- iii. **Transportation:** Rivers acted as natural routes for trade and travel.
- iv. **Food Resources:** Availability of fish and other resources supported life.

- **Disadvantages of Settling Near Rivers:**

- Flooding:** Rivers could overflow and destroy crops, homes, and settlements.
- Unpredictable Nature:** Irregular floods or droughts could cause food shortages.
- Disease:** Stagnant water could lead to the spread of water-borne diseases.
- Extra Effort:** People had to build embankments, dams, and irrigation systems.

9. With the help of your teacher, find out more about the Code of Hammurabi. Why was it important? Do you think it was fair to all sections of society? Give reasons for your answer.

Ans. The Code of Hammurabi was one of the earliest written law codes, created by Hammurabi, the ruler of Babylon around 1754 BCE.

- **Why was it important?**

- It was among the first written sets of laws, making rules clear to everyone.
- It helped maintain law and order in society.
- It introduced the idea of justice and punishment, often based on the principle “an eye for an eye.”
- It protected property, family, and trade, which helped in the smooth functioning of society.

- **Was it fair to all sections of society?** - The Code of Hammurabi was not completely fair to all people.

- Punishments varied based on social status (rich, poor, or slave).
- Wealthier people often received lighter punishments compared to common people or slaves.
- However, it did provide some protection to weaker sections, such as women and the poor, in certain cases.

10. If you had to choose one major innovation from early civilisations that changed the world permanently, what would it be and why?

Ans. If I had to choose one major innovation, it would be the invention of writing.

- **Why writing was important:**

- It allowed people to record information, such as laws, trade, and events.
- Knowledge could be preserved and passed on to future generations.
- It helped in administration and governance, especially in large cities and empires.
- Writing made it easier to develop literature, science, and education.

11. Compare the social hierarchy and daily life of people in the Egyptian civilisation with those in Mesopotamia or China. What similarities and differences do you notice?

Ans. Comparison Table: Egyptian vs Mesopotamian Civilisation

Aspect	Egyptian Civilisation	Mesopotamian Civilisation
• Social Hierarchy	- Pharaoh (god-king) at the top, followed by priests, officials, scribes, artisans, farmers, and slaves	- King at the top (not considered a god), followed by priests, nobles, merchants, artisans, farmers, and slaves
• Status of Ruler	- Pharaoh was considered a divine (god-like) figure	- King was powerful but not divine
• Role of Religion	- Religion deeply influenced life; belief in afterlife and mummification	- Religion important; people worshipped many gods but had a more fearful view of gods
• Daily Life	- More stable and peaceful due to predictable Nile floods	- More uncertain and difficult due to unpredictable rivers and frequent wars
• Women's Status	- Women had more rights (own property, business)	- Women had fewer rights compared to Egypt
• Main Occupation	- Agriculture based on the Nile River	- Agriculture based on Tigris and Euphrates rivers

12. Activity: Using maps, locate the major rivers and civilisations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, China, and the Sindhu–Sarasvatī Valley. Mark the trade links between them.

Ans.



13. Activity: Choose one early civilisation (Mesopotamia, Egypt, or China) and prepare a mini-scrapbook or a presentation showing their innovations in tools, writing, art, and architecture. Include pictures, brief descriptions, and explain their significance.

Ans. Mini Scrapbook / Presentation: Egyptian Civilisation

- **Tools and Technology**
 - i. Egyptians used bronze tools like sickles, ploughs, and axes.
 - ii. They developed irrigation systems (like the shaduf) to use Nile water for farming.
 - iii. Significance: Improved agriculture and increased food production.
- **Writing System**
 - i. Egyptians developed hieroglyphics, a system of picture writing.
 - ii. They wrote on papyrus (early form of paper).
 - iii. Significance: Helped in record-keeping, administration, and preserving knowledge.
- **Art and Culture**
 - i. Art included wall paintings, sculptures, and jewellery.
 - ii. Art often showed gods, kings, and daily life.
 - iii. Significance: Reflected religious beliefs and social life.
- **Architecture**
 - i. Famous structures include pyramids, temples, and tombs.
 - ii. Built using stone and advanced engineering skills.
 - iii. Significance: Showed architectural excellence and belief in life after death.

Conclusion: Egyptian civilisation made important contributions in tools, writing, art, and architecture, which influenced later cultures and still inspire us today.