

Chapter 4: Early Humans & Beginning of Civilisations

Section A: Multiple Choice Questions.

- Where did early humans evolve?
A. Europe B. Africa C. Australia D. America
- What are early human-like ancestors and modern humans collectively called?
A. Hominins B. Primates C. Mammals D. Foragers
- Australopithecines eventually evolved into:
A. Animals B. Plants C. Tools D. Homo sapiens
- Which tools were characteristic of the Mesolithic period?
A. Iron tools B. Microliths C. Bronze swords D. Copper axes
- The domestication of animals became important during the:
A. Palaeolithic Age B. Mesolithic Age C. Neolithic Age D. Iron Age
- Attirampakkam is located in:
A. Karnataka B. Gujarat C. Madhya Pradesh D. Tamil Nadu
- Mehrgarh is located near:
A. Bolan River B. Ganga River C. Narmada River D. Indus River
- The historical period began about:
A. 1,000 years ago B. 2,000 years ago C. 4,000 years ago D. 5,000 years ago
- The early Chinese civilisation developed around:
A. The Nile B. The Yellow River C. The Tigris D. The Indus
- The earliest stone tools were made around:
A. 1.3 million years ago B. 2.3 million years ago C. 3.3 million years ago D. 5.3 million years ago

Section B: Write True or False in the space provided.

- Written languages emerged at the same time in all parts of the world. [_____]
- The study of early human history helps us understand human evolution. [_____]
- Archaeologists study only written records of early humans. [_____]
- All human ancestors were tool makers. [_____]
- Microlithic tools were large and heavy. [_____]
- Bronze is made by mixing iron and gold. [_____]
- Harappan writing has been found on seals and other objects. [_____]
- The Neolithic Revolution refers to the widespread use of iron. [_____]
- Animal fossils have been found at early human sites in India. [_____]
- Sumer was located in present-day southern Iraq. [_____]

Section C: Match the Following.

Column A

- 3rd century BCE emperor
- Sindhu–Sarasvatī Civilisation
- Mesopotamian Civilisation
- Egyptian Civilisation
- Chinese Civilisation
- Tiny stone tools
- First hominin to leave Africa

Column B

- Hieroglyphic script & Papyrus sheets
- Ashoka
- Oracle bones & Silk production
- Cuneiform script & Ziggurats
- Double-crop cultivation & Standardised weights
- Homo sapiens
- Microliths

Ans. 1 - _____ 2 - _____ 3 - _____ 4 - _____ 5 - _____ 6 - _____ 7 - _____

Section D: Fill in the Blanks.

[ziggurat, Old, archaeological, Mesopotamia, Isampur, agriculture, limestone, Indus Valley, wheat, fossils]

1. The period before the development of writing is understood mainly through _____ evidence.
2. The Harappan Civilisation is also known as the _____ Civilisation.
3. Over time, human ways of life changed from hunting and gathering to _____.
4. These regions together are called the _____ World.
5. Human remains buried underground turned into _____.
6. People in Mehrgarh cultivated _____ and barley.
7. A stepped, pyramid-shaped temple in Mesopotamia was called a _____.
8. _____ in Karnataka is dated to about 1.2 million years ago.
9. Stone choppers were made of _____.
10. _____ developed between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Section E: Short Answer Questions.

1. What is the main difference between Harappan script and other early scripts?

Ans. _____

2. What is biological evolution?

Ans. _____

3. What is cultural evolution?

Ans. _____

4. Where did Homo habilis live?

Ans. _____

5. Where did Homo neanderthalensis live?

Ans. _____

6. What were the important features of the Bronze Age?

Ans. _____

7. What is meant by the 'Old World'?

Ans. _____

8. What were the major changes during the Neolithic period?

Ans. _____

9. What is the importance of Attirampakkam?

Ans. _____

10. Where was the Hittite Empire located?

Ans. _____

Section F: Long Answer Question.

1. Describe the different stages of the Stone Age.

Ans. _____

2. Explain the importance of the Neolithic Revolution in human history.

Ans. _____

3. Describe the important early human species mentioned in the chapter.

Ans. _____

4. Explain the transition from the Stone Age to the Metal Ages.

Ans. _____

5. Define the Quaternary Period and explain its significance in human evolution.

Ans. _____

6. Who were the Sumerians? Describe the main features of their cities and their contribution to early civilisation.

Ans. _____

7. Describe the main features of Mesopotamian civilisation.

Ans. _____

8. Describe the main features of ancient Egyptian civilisation.

Ans. _____

9. Who were the Hittites? Describe their importance in the ancient world.

Ans. _____

10. Explain how technological development changed human society from the Stone Age to early civilisations.
Ans. _____

Section G: Answer the following questions in one or two words.

1. Name two plants grown during the Neolithic period at Mehrgarh.

Ans. _____

2. Name two metals used during the Metal Ages.

Ans. _____

3. Name two important rivers of the Mesopotamian civilisation.

Ans. _____

4. Name two major rivers of the ancient Chinese civilisation.

Ans. _____

5. Name two early Palaeolithic sites in India.

Ans. _____

6. Name two materials used by ancient Egyptians for writing.

Ans. _____

7. Name two major architectural structures built by ancient civilisations.

Ans. _____

8. Name two hominin species that lived before modern humans.

Ans. _____

9. Name two key features introduced during the Neolithic Revolution.

Ans. _____

10. Name two materials used to make pottery in early times.

Ans. _____

Section H: Give One-Word Answers.

1. The script used from about 400 BCE:

2. The period referred to for contemporary people:

3. Scientists who study early human remains:

4. A famous Mesolithic rock shelter site in India:

5. The earliest agricultural village in the Indian subcontinent:

6. An ancient people who built a powerful empire in Anatolia:

7. An early writing material made from a plant and used in ancient Egypt:

8. The process of preserving dead bodies by drying and wrapping them:

9. An early writing system made by pressing wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets:

10. A city that is its own independent country and controls nearby areas:

Section I: Assertion & Reason Questions.

Instructions: For each question, choose the correct option from the choices below:

A. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.

B. Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.

C. Assertion (A) is true, but Reason (R) is false.

D. Assertion (A) is false, but Reason (R) is true.

1. Assertion (A): Homo habilis is associated with the earliest simple stone tools discussed in the chapter.

Reason (R): Homo habilis lived in the Olduvai Gorge region and made chopper stone tools.

Ans. _____

2. Assertion (A): Homo neanderthalensis is associated with Europe and Southwest Asia.

Reason (R): Neanderthals lived in these regions until about 40,000 years ago.

Ans. _____

3. Assertion (A): The Stone Age consisted only of the Palaeolithic period.

Reason (R): The Stone Age is broadly divided into Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic periods.

Ans. _____

4. Assertion (A): The Hittites were an Indo-European people.

Reason (R): They established a powerful empire in Anatolia during the second millennium BCE.

Ans. _____

5. Assertion (A): Agriculture encouraged settled life.

Reason (R): Early farmers always moved from place to place while growing crops.

Ans. _____

Section J: Give Reasons.

1. Why did humans begin to live in permanent settlements?

Ans. _____

2. Why is the Neolithic Revolution considered a major turning point?

Ans. _____

3. Why are archaeological experiments useful?

Ans. _____

4. Why is the study of fossils important?

Ans. _____

5. Why did cities develop in Mesopotamia?

Ans. _____

6. Why was the invention of writing an important development?

Ans. _____

7. Why are stone tools important for studying early humans?

Ans. _____

8. Why is the Mesolithic period called a transitional phase?

Ans. _____

9. Why was the beginning of agriculture important?

Ans. _____

10. Why was writing important to early civilisations?

Ans. _____

Answer**Section A: Multiple Choice Questions**

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------|
| 1. B. Africa | 2. A. Hominins | 3. D. Homo sapiens | 4. B. Microliths |
| 5. C. Neolithic Age | 6. D. Tamil Nadu | 7. A. Bolan River | |
| 8. D. 5,000 years ago | 9. B. The Yellow River | 10. C. 3.3 million years ago | |

Section B: True or False

- | | | | | |
|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. False | 4. True | 5. False |
| 6. False | 7. True | 8. False | 9. True | 10. True |

Section C: Match the Following

- | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1 – b, | 2 – e, | 3 – d, | 4 – a, | 5 – c, | 6 – g, | 7 – f |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|

Section D: Answers

- | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. Archaeological | 2. Indus Valley | 3. Agriculture | 4. Old | 5. Fossils |
| 6. Wheat | 7. Ziggurat | 8. Isampur | 9. Limestone | 10. Mesopotamia |

Section E: Short Answer Questions

- The Harappan script is undeciphered, while cuneiform and hieroglyphic scripts have been deciphered.
- Biological evolution refers to the gradual physical and genetic changes through which early human ancestors developed into modern humans.
- Biological evolution refers to the gradual physical and genetic changes through which early human ancestors evolved into modern humans.
- Cultural evolution explains how humans adapted to their surroundings over time, especially during changing environmental conditions.
- Homo habilis lived in Africa, especially in Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and Kenya.
- Homo neanderthalensis lived in Europe and Southwest Asia until about 40,000 years ago.
- The Bronze Age saw the development of bronze metallurgy, expanded trade, growing towns and early civilisations.
- The Old World refers to the geographical area containing the oldest human settlements, mainly Africa, Europe and Asia.
- People began farming, domesticated animals, lived in settled communities and used polished stone tools.
- Attirampakkam in Tamil Nadu is an important early human site, dated to about 1.5–1.7 million years ago, where stone tools and animal fossils have been found.

Section F: Long Answer Questions

- The Stone Age is broadly divided into three stages:

- Palaeolithic Age – It is also called the Old Stone Age. People mainly followed a hunting-gathering lifestyle and used simple stone tools.
- Mesolithic Age – It was a transitional stage between hunting-gathering and agriculture. People used very small stone tools called microliths.
- Neolithic Age – It is also called the New Stone Age. People began agriculture, domesticated animals, lived in permanent settlements and used polished stone tools.

The development of agriculture and settled life during the Neolithic period was a major turning point in human history.

- The Neolithic Revolution was the shift from hunting-gathering to agriculture and settled life.

- Humans began growing crops instead of depending only on wild food.
- They started domesticating animals for food and other uses.
- People began living in permanent settlements.
- Agriculture produced food surpluses, which supported larger populations.
- Villages gradually developed into towns and cities.
- Surplus food allowed some people to specialise in crafts, trade and other occupations.

Therefore, the Neolithic Revolution laid the foundation for the development of villages, towns and early civilisations.

3. The chapter discusses several important human species:

- Homo habilis – Lived in Africa, especially around Olduvai Gorge in Tanzania and Kenya, and made chopper stone tools.
- Homo erectus – Lived in the Eastern African Rift Valley and made handaxes and cleavers. They were among the first human ancestors to migrate out of Africa.
- Homo neanderthalensis – Lived in Europe and Southwest Asia and made Middle Palaeolithic flake tools.
- Homo sapiens – Modern humans who evolved in Africa and are the only human species living today.

The development of these species shows the long process of human evolution and technological advancement.

4. Human technology gradually developed from stone tools to metal tools.

- During the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic Ages, humans mainly used stone tools.
- The Chalcolithic Age saw the use of copper along with stone tools.
- Humans gradually developed metallurgy, the extraction and shaping of metals.
- During the Bronze Age, people learned to mix copper and tin to make bronze.
- Bronze metallurgy encouraged the growth of trade, towns and early civilisations.
- During the Iron Age, iron was widely smelted and worked to produce stronger tools and weapons.

Thus, improvements in metallurgy contributed greatly to technological and social development.

5. The Quaternary Period refers to the last 26 lakh years, including the present. It is important because it was during this time that humans underwent significant cultural evolution. As climate and environmental conditions changed, humans adapted by developing tools, techniques, and technology. This period shows how humans learned to survive and make use of natural resources, shaping modern human life.

6. The Sumerians developed one of the earliest city-based civilisations in Mesopotamia, in present-day southern Iraq.

- They established independent city-states, such as Ur.
- They built dams and canals to support irrigation and agriculture.
- Their cities had houses and important buildings made from mud bricks and burnt bricks.
- Large stepped temples called ziggurats were important religious centres.
- Agriculture, trade and specialised crafts developed in their cities.
- They developed cuneiform, one of the earliest writing systems, using wedge-shaped marks on clay tablets.
- The Sumerians therefore contributed greatly to urban life, irrigation, writing, trade, architecture and administration.

7. Mesopotamian civilisation developed between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

- The fertile river valleys supported agriculture.
- People developed irrigation systems using canals and dams.
- Independent city-states developed, each with its own government.
- Cities had temples, houses, markets and specialised craft activities.
- The Sumerians developed cuneiform writing on clay tablets.
- Trade connected Mesopotamian cities with distant regions.
- Different Mesopotamian kingdoms and peoples, including the Sumerians, Akkadians, Babylonians and Assyrians, developed over time.

These developments made Mesopotamia one of the world's earliest centres of urban civilisation.

8. Ancient Egyptian civilisation developed mainly along the Nile River.

- The Nile provided water and fertile land for agriculture.
- Egyptians developed a system of writing called hieroglyphics.
- They used papyrus as a writing material.
- They developed advanced knowledge of medicine and other fields.
- Mummification was practised to preserve dead bodies.
- They constructed large and impressive buildings and monuments.
- The civilisation developed an organised system of administration and religious practices.