

THE EARLIEST SOCIETIES

A. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate words.

1.Homo sapiens 2.Hominins 3. Hunter-gatherers 4.Bhimbetka 5.Houses

B. Match the rows.

1. (d); 2. (e); 3. (b); 4. (c); 5. (a);

C. Write true or false. Correct the false sentences in your notebook.

1. True 2. False 3. False 4. True 5. False

D. Choose the correct answer.

1. (a); 2. (a); 3. (c); 4. (b); 5. (c)

E. Answer the following questions in one or two sentences.

1. Who were Hominins?

Ans - Hominins were human-like species, from which human beings developed or evolved. They shared similar characteristics to humans like they could walk, stand erect and knew the art of making fire.

2. Why was stone used to make tools in the prehistoric period?

Ans – Stones were used because they were easily available in large quantities. Stones were used by early humans to make tools like knives, spears and axes. These weapons were essential for them to hunt animals and protect themselves from potential predators.

3. Why is the term ‘Neolithic Revolution’ used to describe the Neolithic period?

Ans - Neolithic period is described as Neolithic Revolution, because many far-reaching changes took place during this period such as:

1. Farming,
2. Domestication of animals,
3. Invention of the potter’s wheel and
4. The beginning of settled life took place

F. Give reasons for the following:

1. Why is the Lower Paleolithic Age called as the Ice Age?

Ans – The Lower Paleolithic Age was an era when the climate was extremely cold, and many parts of the earth were covered with ice. Therefore, this period was also called the Ice Age.

2. Why was the invention of the wheel significant for the Neolithic people?

Ans - *The invention of the wheel made life easier and more comfortable.

*The potter’s wheel was used to make better pots.

*People could now make wheeled carts and chariots for transportation and for carrying loads.

*Later, people also made the spinning wheel to spin thread.—were forced to move with them.

G. Answer the following questions in four or five sentences:

1. What are the sources of information for the prehistoric period? Why is the knowledge about this period so limited?

Ans – *Prehistoric period refers to that period of history when no written record of human life existed.

*We rely on fossils such as bones and skeletons, and artefacts such as stone tools, cave paintings, pottery, etc.

*Stone tools include clubs, burins, choppers, bows and arrows, microliths, spears, etc.

*As we do not have any written records or manuscripts for this period, our knowledge about it is very limited.

2. How was fire useful to early humans?

Ans - *Fire was very useful to early humans as it helped to keep them warm during the cold winters and frighten away wild animals.

*In the darkness of night, it provided them with light.

*Moreover, they also learnt to use fire to cook their food.

3. Explain the social life of the people during the Neolithic Age?

Ans - *During the Neolithic period, people began to live in groups that soon developed into tribes.

*This led to new occupations and specialization of labour with specific tasks based on certain skills.

*Society was divided on the basis of specific task such as farming, herding and weaving, and others took decisions for the welfare of tribe.

*New customs, such as burying the dead, rituals and ceremonies, also emerged.