

Class 9 - Social Science

Understanding Society India and Beyond PART-I

History - Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation

CBSE NOTES

History - Early Humans and Beginning of Civilisation - Practice Worksheet

Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.



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Practice Questions

Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. How did humans live on Earth before the beginning of civilisation?

Hint: Think about the roles of hunting, gathering, and the tools they used.

2. How did humans communicate before writing was invented?

Hint: Consider how oral traditions and symbols played a part in their interactions.



Practice Questions

Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. How is archaeology helpful in understanding our past?

Hint: Reflect on what types of artifacts can offer clues about human life.

4. How did early civilisations interact with each other?

Hint: Think about trade, alliances, and conflicts as ways of interaction.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. What is the significance of the Neolithic Revolution in human history?

Hint: Consider how agriculture changed lifestyles and community structures.

6. In what ways did climate change impact early human societies?

Hint: Think about the transition from hunting to agriculture and how it was influenced by changing climates.



Practice Questions

Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. Describe the role of tools in the advancement of early humans.

Hint: Consider the various types of tools and their specific functions for different tasks.

8. What evidence do we have of early human art and its significance?

Hint: Think about how art can convey significant themes and ideas beyond mere visuals.



Practice Questions

Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. How did the development of agriculture change human societies?

Hint: Consider how the shift to farming affected population dynamics and social roles.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. How did humans live on Earth before the beginning of civilisation?

Solution: Before the advent of civilisation, humans primarily led a nomadic lifestyle as hunter-gatherers. They formed small groups or bands, relying on tools made from stone, bone, and wood for hunting and gathering food. Their shelters were temporary, constructed from natural materials, and they moved frequently in search of resources. As they became adept at tool-making, they developed various implements for specific tasks, aiding their survival in diverse environments. This era was characterized by a deep connection to nature, with humans adapting to their surroundings, largely dictated by climate and seasonal changes. Over time, gathering transitioned from mere survival to more systematic forms, indicating early social structures and divisions of labor. The period is often divided into stages, notably the Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), where early humans created rudimentary art, symbolizing the beginning of cultural expressions. Linguistic development also played a crucial role, facilitating improved communication within groups. In summary, life before civilisation was marked by a profound reliance on the natural environment, leading eventually to the gradual shift towards settled communities once agriculture began.

2. How did humans communicate before writing was invented?

Solution: Before writing was developed, human communication primarily relied on spoken language and non-verbal forms such as gestures, body language, and symbolic representations through art. Early humans are believed to have used a rudimentary form of language, which evolved over time into more complex systems. This oral tradition allowed them to share knowledge about hunting strategies, social norms, and survival tactics. Additionally, cave paintings and carvings served as visual communication, conveying stories, beliefs, or documenting significant events. These artistic expressions indicate a rich symbolic culture among early humans, showcasing their cognitive abilities and creativity. Furthermore, social interactions within small groups fostered networks of learning where younger generations absorbed cultural norms and values through observation and mimicry. This method of communication laid the groundwork for later developments in language and eventually the written word. The use of sounds to denote particular meanings represents humans' unique adaptation to convey complex ideas and emotions. In essence, communication before writing was multifaceted, incorporating both verbal and non-verbal elements.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

3. How is archaeology helpful in understanding our past?

Solution: Archaeology plays a critical role in reconstructing human history by studying material remains left by past civilizations. Archaeologists excavate sites, analyze artifacts, structures, and biofacts, providing insights into the daily lives, cultural practices, and technological advancements of ancient peoples. Through various dating methods, such as radiocarbon dating, they can establish timelines for when particular cultures existed and how they evolved. Additionally, archaeological findings help to validate or challenge historical narratives based on written records, especially for periods where writings are scarce or non-existent, such as the Palaeolithic era. Artifacts like pottery, tools, and dwellings showcase the technological progress and adaptability of early humans. Moreover, the study of burial sites affords essential information about social structures, beliefs, and practices surrounding death. As archaeologists compile data, they create a more comprehensive view of human history, bridging gaps in our understanding of cultural evolution. By uncovering the past, archaeology contributes significantly to the broader narrative of human development.

4. How did early civilisations interact with each other?

Solution: Early civilisations engaged in complex interactions characterized by trade, cultural exchange, and sometimes conflict. Trade routes established among civilisations, such as the Indo-European, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian, facilitated the exchange of goods like textiles, metals, and foodstuffs. This commerce not only enriched individual societies but also led to the sharing of ideas, technologies, and cultural practices. For example, the exchange of agricultural techniques and religious beliefs significantly shaped societal norms within these civilisations. Diplomatic relations, often established through marriage alliances, furthered peaceful coexistence and mutual benefit. However, early civilisations also faced challenges, including resource competition and territorial disputes, leading to wars or alliances forming against common enemies. The diffusion of innovations, such as writing systems and architectural techniques, is evident in the archaeological record, highlighting the interconnectivity of ancient societies. In summary, these interactions laid the foundation for future cultural and technological advancements across different regions.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

5. What is the significance of the Neolithic Revolution in human history?

Solution: The Neolithic Revolution, occurring around 10,000 BCE, marks a critical transition from nomadic hunter-gatherer lifestyles to settled agricultural communities. This shift enabled humans to cultivate crops and domesticate animals, ensuring a more reliable food source. Consequently, populations began to grow as food surpluses became available, leading to the development of permanent settlements and the foundation of civilisations. The establishment of agricultural practices allowed for the specialization of labor, giving rise to various occupations and social stratification, as not everyone was needed in food production. Additionally, the revolution facilitated advancements in technology, such as the creation of farming tools, pottery, and weaving, fostering trade and the exchange of ideas. Alongside this economic transformation, there was a significant cultural evolution, with the emergence of religious beliefs centered around agriculture and community life. As a result, the Neolithic Revolution is viewed as a cornerstone in human history, profoundly influencing social structures, cultural practices, and the environment. It laid the groundwork for urbanisation and the complexities of modern society.

6. In what ways did climate change impact early human societies?

Solution: Climate change had a profound impact on early human societies, influencing migration patterns, settlement locations, and survival strategies. During the last Ice Age, lower temperatures led to harsher living conditions, prompting groups to adapt their hunting strategies and seek new resources. As the Earth began to warm approximately 12,000 years ago, environments transformed, resulting in the expansion of forests and grasslands, which in turn provided new opportunities for hunting and gathering. This climatic shift paved the way for the Neolithic Revolution, as more stable and hospitable ecosystems allowed humans to experiment with agriculture and animal domestication. During periods of drought or flooding, populations were forced to migrate to more suitable locations, leading to the establishment of new settlements. Furthermore, the availability of diverse food sources in warmer climates allowed for population growth and complexity in social structures. Overall, climate change served as a catalyst for human evolution, shaping not only their survival strategies but also community dynamics and cultural practices across different regions.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

7. Describe the role of tools in the advancement of early humans.

Solution: Tools played a vital role in the advancement of early humans, marking a significant aspect of their evolutionary development. The ability to create and utilize tools delineated early hominins from other species, reflecting an advanced level of cognitive function and adaptability. Stone tools, such as hand axes and scrapers, were crucial for hunting, preparing food, and gathering resources, facilitating survival in various environments. As early humans developed more specialized tools, such as arrows and fishing implements, their hunting and gathering efficiency soared, allowing them to exploit a wider array of food sources. The invention of tools also triggered social changes, as cooperation and learning became essential for tool production and use. This shared knowledge fostered stronger community bonds and established informal teaching systems. Furthermore, the development of tools directly influenced the economic structures of early societies, as specific tools enabled trade and exchange. In essence, tools served as extensions of the human body, enhancing capabilities and contributing fundamentally to the survival, social organization, and cultural expression of early human communities.

8. What evidence do we have of early human art and its significance?

Solution: Early human art, found in the form of cave paintings, carvings, and symbolic objects, provides critical evidence of their cognitive and cultural development. Sites like the Lascaux Caves in France demonstrate how ancient peoples used pigments to create detailed and vibrant images of animals and human activities. These artworks likely served multiple purposes, including communication of experiences, expression of beliefs, and representation of the environment they lived in. The symbolic nature of these depictions suggests a complex understanding of life and the world, revealing insights into early humans' thoughts and social structures. Additionally, such art may have played a role in rituals, functioning as a means to convey communal identity and shared values. The use of artistic expression indicates an evolving societal structure, as art became a medium for storytelling and preserving culture. Overall, early human art signifies not just aesthetic endeavors but also a deeper connection to spirituality, community, and the environment.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

9. How did the development of agriculture change human societies?

Solution: The development of agriculture fundamentally transformed human societies from nomadic lifestyles to settled communities, marking the beginning of the Neolithic era. It facilitated a stable food supply, allowing populations to grow and communities to develop. As people transitioned from hunter-gathering, they established permanent settlements, which led to the formation of villages and eventually cities. This shift allowed for specialization of labor, as not everyone was required for food production; people could engage in various crafts, trades, and administrative roles, leading to more complex social structures. Agriculture also required cooperative efforts for planting and harvesting, fostering social cohesion and organization. Moreover, as agricultural practices spread, so did the sharing of ideas, technologies, and cultural traits among different groups, further enriching human development. The reliance on cultivated crops also led to storage techniques, promoting trade. Consequently, the agricultural revolution laid the groundwork for the rise of civilisations, shaping human culture, economy, and social hierarchies.



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