

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 - Revision Guide

Revise faster with structured summaries, key points, and important ideas.



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1. Hominins: Tool makers.

Hominins, including Homo habilis and Homo erectus, were early humans known for making tools. Their development marked a significant leap in human evolution.

2. Tool evolution: Palaeolithic to Neolithic.

The Stone Age features three periods: Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, and Neolithic, showcasing evolved tool-making and lifestyle changes over time.

3. Neolithic Revolution defined.

The Neolithic Revolution involved the transition from hunting-gathering to agriculture, domesticating plants and animals, which laid civilization's foundation.

4. Selective breeding: Key to agriculture.

Domestication of plants and animals allowed for selective breeding, improving yield and stability in food production critical for emerging societies.

5. artifacts: Archaeology's role.

Archaeological artifacts, like tools and pottery, provide insights into early human life, showing how they adapted and evolved culturally over time.



6. Migration out of Africa.

Early humans began migrating out of Africa approximately 2 million years ago, with Homo erectus being the first to spread into Asia and Europe.

7. First known writing systems.

Scripts from the Harappan civilization and early Mesopotamian cuneiform illustrate early forms of communication predating widespread literacy.

8. Importance of the Indus Valley.

The Indus Valley Civilization exemplified urban planning with advanced drainage, architecture, and a yet undeciphered script reflecting a complex society.

9. Old World civilizations.

The 'Old World' refers to human settlements in Africa, Asia, and Europe, indicating coexisting diverse cultures and evolving technologies.

10. Impact of agriculture on society.

Agriculture supported population growth, leading to settled communities, trade, and the establishment of social hierarchies, essential for civilizational development.



11. Role of climate change.

Climate shifts, around 12000 years ago, influenced human adaptation, resulting in resource diversification and a population surge.

12. Homo sapiens: Modern humans.

Homo sapiens exhibited advanced tool-making and artistic abilities and migrated globally, adapting well to various environments.

13. Cave paintings: Symbolic communication.

Cave art from early humans demonstrates symbolic communication and social organization, indicating a cognitive leap in human development.

14. Settlement patterns: Neolithic sites.

Neolithic settlements, like Mehrgarh, showcased early forms of urbanization, with agriculture-driven economies and community structures.

15. Early Harappan culture.

The Early Harappan phase saw advancements in craft production, architecture, and trade, setting the stage for the mature phase of the Indus Valley.



16. Social stratification.

Agricultural surplus allowed for the emergence of social hierarchies, with distinctions based on wealth and occupation forming in early civilizations.

17. Trade networks: Mesopotamia and Indus.

Trade routes between Mesopotamia and the Harappan civilization indicate economic interactions and cultural exchanges during ancient times.

18. Challenges of deciphering scripts.

The undeciphered Harappan script poses challenges to understanding their language, culture, and connections with other early civilizations.

19. Artistry: Reflections of society.

Artworks, such as pottery and craft artifacts, reveal cultural values and technological advancements of early human societies through their styles and functions.

20. Agricultural innovations.

The introduction of new agricultural techniques and tools enhanced food production efficiency, crucial for sustaining larger populations.



21. Fossils: Evidence of human history.

Fossil discoveries help reconstruct human history, showing physical evolution and migration patterns as key elements in human development.



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