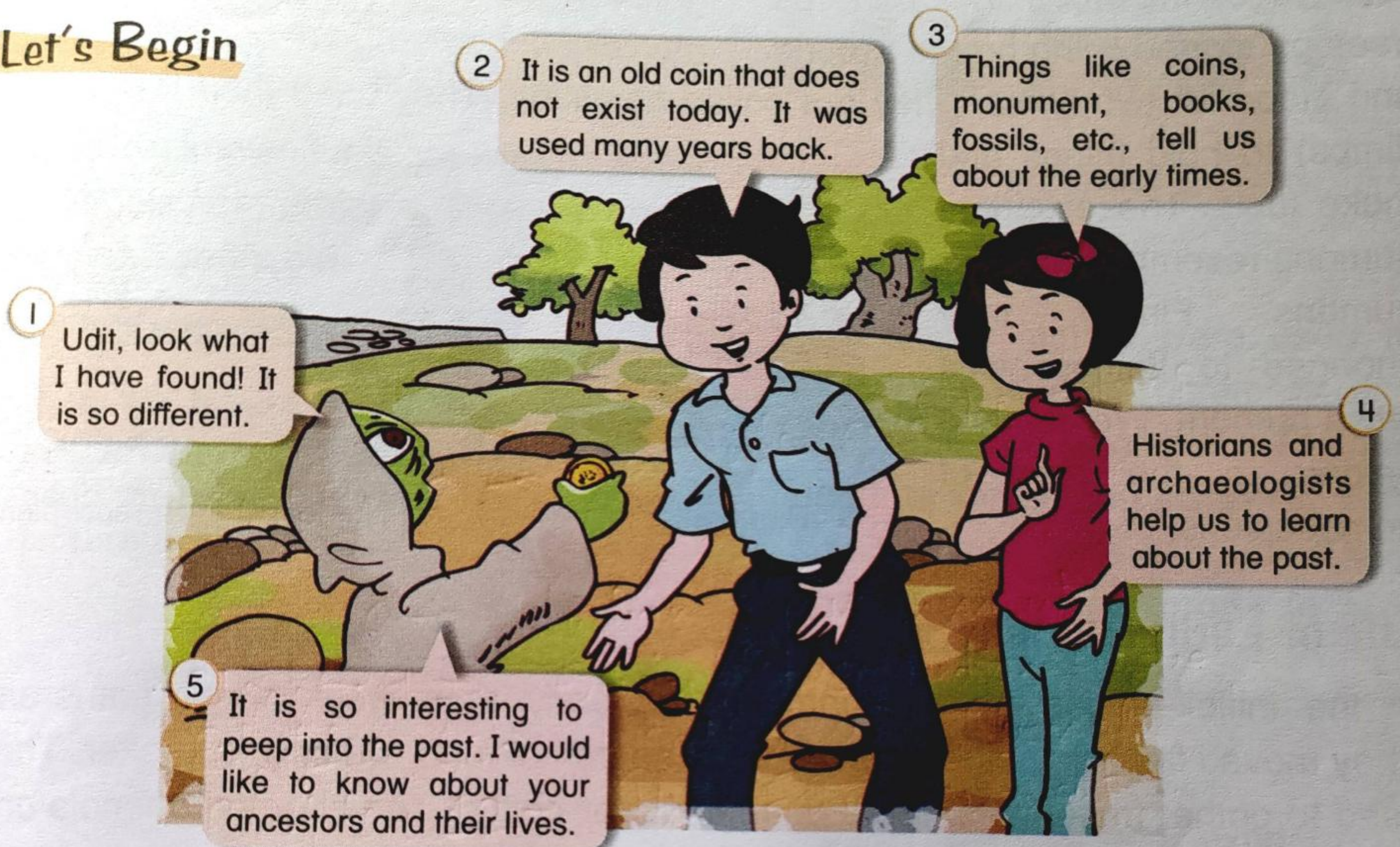


Evolution of Man

LET'S FOCUS

- Tracing human evolution on Earth
- Sources of information

Let's Begin



Find out what work do the following do.

• A Historian

• An Archaeologist

Millions of years ago, the Earth was not as it is seen today. It was a totally different and difficult place to live with very cold climate. The plants, animals and humans looked different from what they are now. All the changes were brought about gradually with the changing environment.

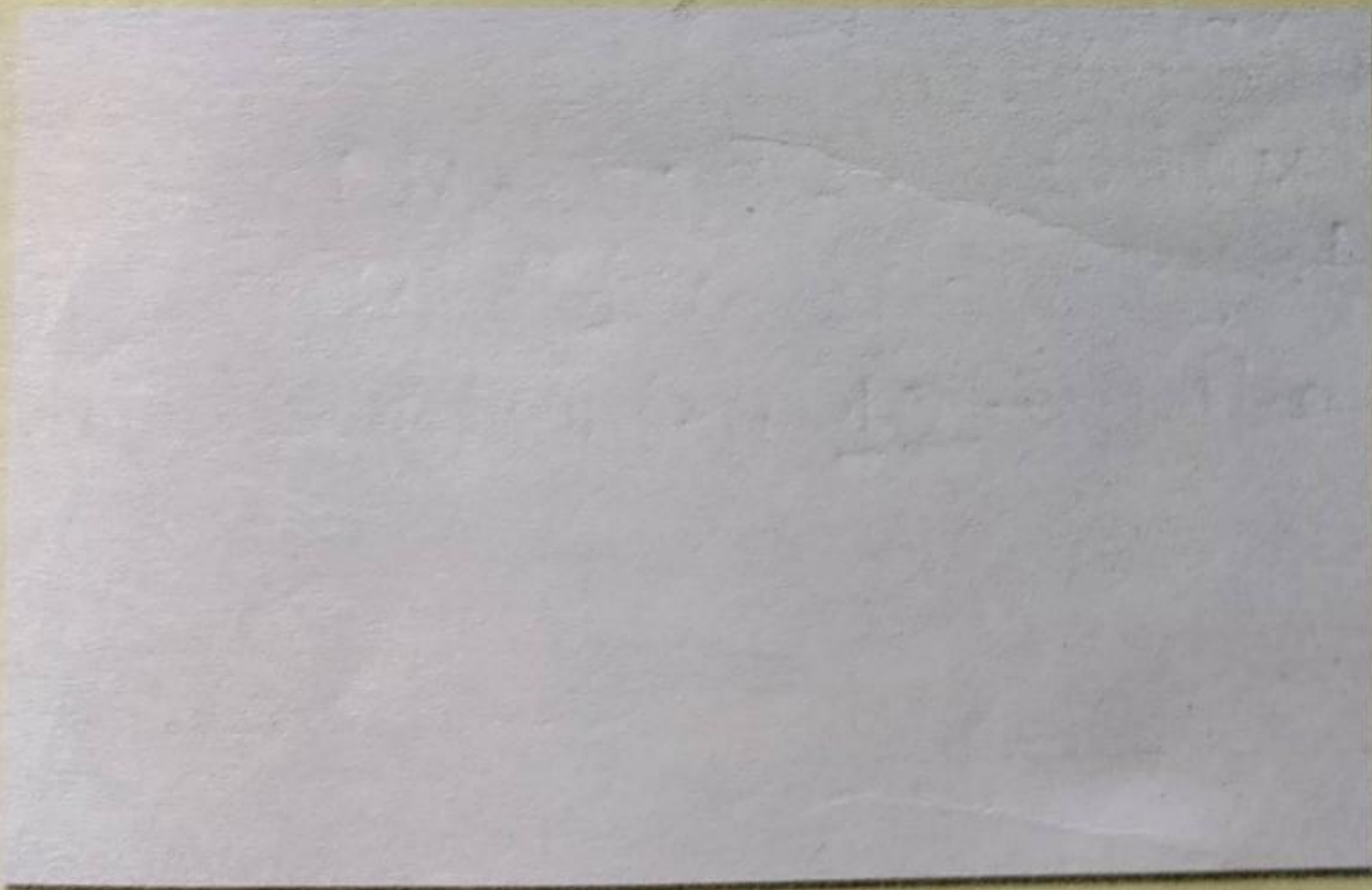
Earliest ancestors of humans, the Ramapithecus lived about 14 million years ago. They weighed about 14 kg and were small ape-like creatures who walked upright.

In the early stages, the primitive man used stones to hunt animals. Gradually he discovered that hunting could be easier if the stones were sharpened. Tools that they used in olden times were of different shapes and sizes. The early men used these tools for chopping meat, hunting animals, digging the ground and stitching animal skins to cover themselves.

The oldest known tools are the **Oldowan** stone tools from Ethiopia. They are about 2.5 million years old.

Let's Know More

Take big leaves (like banana leaves) and stitch them together with the help of an adult to make a clothing item. Draw its picture here.



▲ Stone tools

The bigger stones were used to make axe heads, hammers and choppers. The smaller stones were used as knives and scrapers. Very small stones were sharpened and tied to spears and arrows to hunt animals.

Man discovers fire

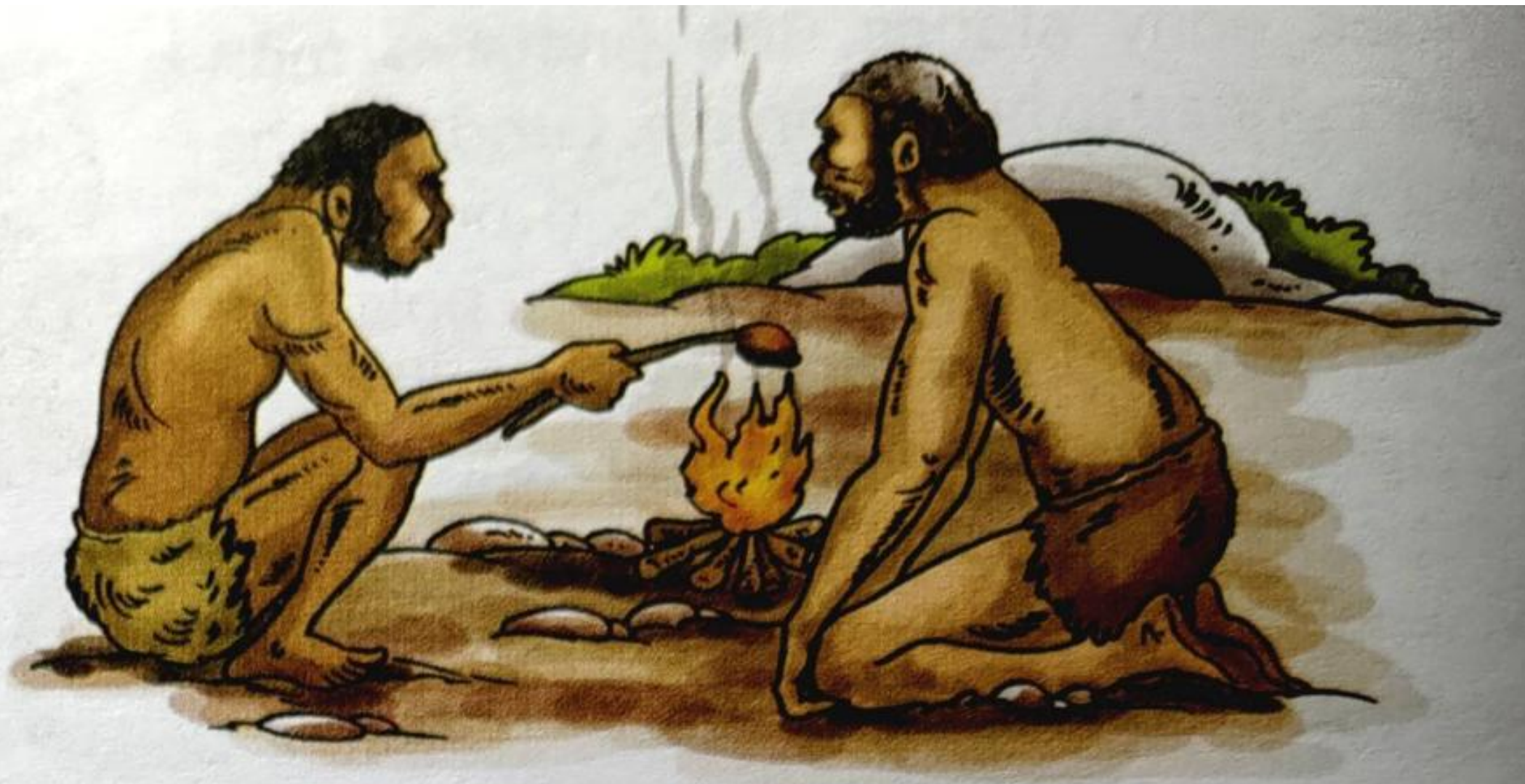
Early hominids had experienced natural forest fires caused by lightning. Initially they were afraid of it. Later they noticed that animals were also afraid of fire. Discovery of fire must have been accidental.

While shaping and sharpening the stones to make tools, they rubbed two stones together. It produced spark which fell on the dry grass nearby and caught fire. Discovery of fire was very useful for the early man. Archaeologists have discovered the piled remains of ashes in caves which prove that Paleolithic period used fire systematically. Hearths, ashes, charcoal and charred bones have also been discovered.

Let's Dig Out

Think of any three uses of fire in today's life.

Fire was created to give warmth, keep away wild animals and cook food. Roasting of meat was also accidental. The piece of meat that fell into the fire became softer, easily chewable and tastier than the raw flesh. Gradually, they started roasting food before eating.



▲ Early men roasting meat

Farming

Agriculture began in the **Neolithic** Age. During this time, man learnt to sow seeds, grow plants and harvest them.

Wheat and barley were the first crops to be grown. Agriculture was a great discovery. It turned the nomadic hunter-gatherer to a food producer. They started to lead a settled life, made mud houses and lived in small communities. Archaeologists have found evidences of early farming and herders in North-West, East and South India.

Let's Dig Out

How could have man learnt to grow crops?

Later they observed the relation between the crops grown and the favourable seasons. The transition from hunter-gatherer to a producer took—cultivating fields,

Let's Do It

Find out two sites for each grain grown in India in early times.

- Wheat: _____
- Rice: _____
- Millets: _____
- Lentils: _____

hunting animals, making tools and weapons—took thousands of years.

Domestication of Animals

With the agriculture came **domestication** of animals. Dog was the first animal to be tamed. Later on, goats, sheep, pigs, cattle, horses and donkeys were domesticated. Cows and goats were reared for milk. Horses and donkeys carried loads. Animals also provided early man with skin and meat. It was later that they used animals to

plough fields, to protect their crops and for transportation purpose.

Settling

Early man preferred staying near river banks for many reasons,

- River banks had fertile land to grow crops.
- There was a regular supply of water for the fields and other activities.
- Rivers were used as means of transport.

They settled in small groups which gradually led to the formation of villages. They made small huts of mud, stones, leaves and branches.

Let's Dig Out

Which were the earliest civilisations formed by the settled Early Humans? Where were they located?

Man invents wheel

Invention of wheel was a stepping-stone towards the civilisation of the early man. Probably they saw a boulder or a log rolling down a hill slope that gave them the idea of wheel. Initially, they fitted logs under their carts and sledges to pull them. This invention changed man's life manifolds. Travelling from one place to another



▲ Wheels

could be done in lesser time and with ease. It became easier to move heavy loads on uneven surfaces. Wheel was used to make pottery with clay. The potter's wheel is used even till date on which clay is shaped with fingers and hands to form utensils and pots. These utensils are then baked in fire.



▲ 5000 year old pottery items

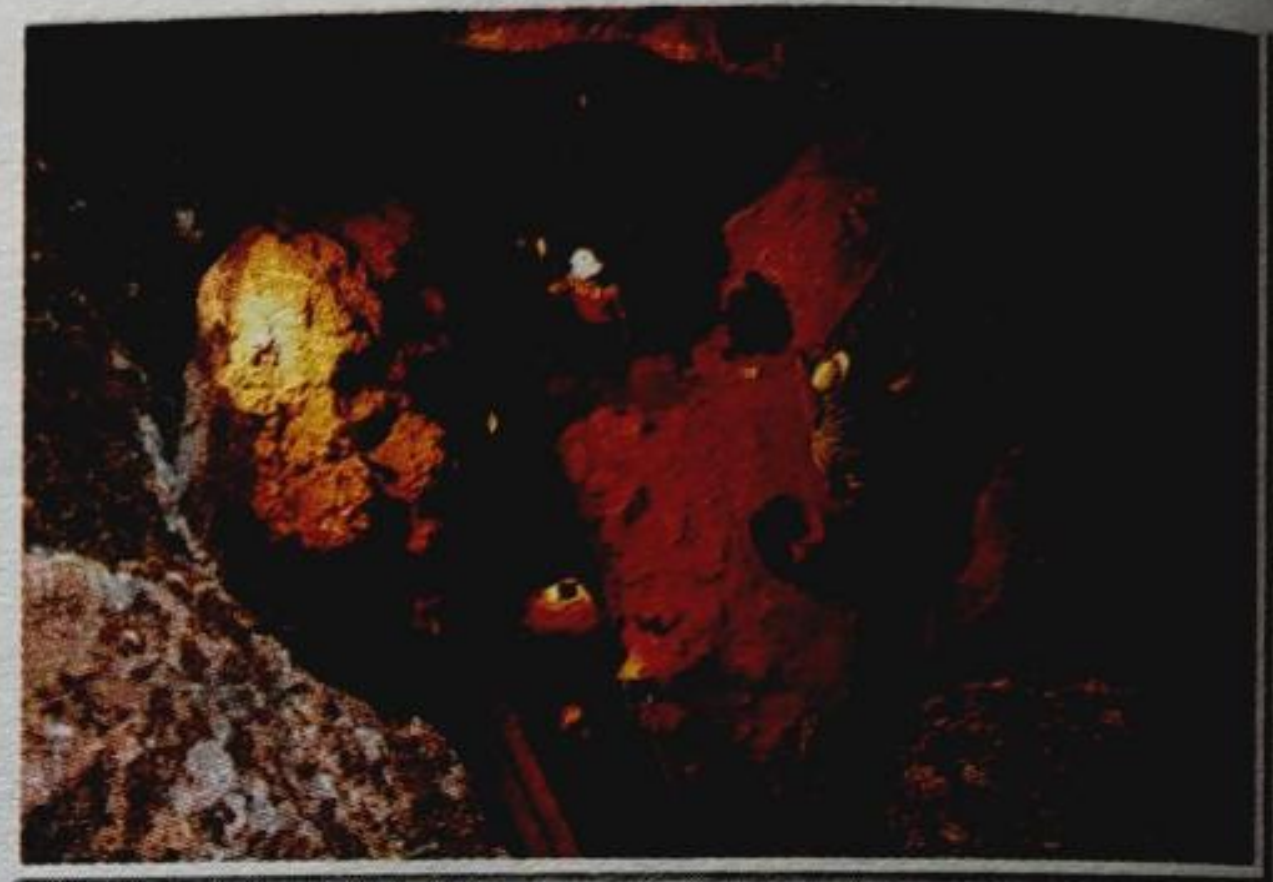
The pottery items were used for storing grains, water and cooking food in earlier times. Later on, the pottery was decorated and glazed by them.

Sources of information

How do we come to know about the lives of early humans? There are many archaeological sources of information which tell us about them. Some of them are—

Fossils

Initial **evolution** of human took place in Africa. The **fossils** of early humans excavated from different **sites** tell us a lot about their physical appearance and features. The bones, their sizes and shapes tell us how they moved and handled tools. They also tell us about the changes in the sizes of the brain that evolved over years.



▲ Archaeological excavation

Pottery

Different shapes and sizes of pots made with hand and on potters wheel, have been excavated from several sites. Some of them were glazed and decorated. It reveals the fact that the early man stored grains and cooked food in the utensils, made with clay.



▲ Prehistoric cave painting

Cave paintings

Early man painted on the walls of the caves, rock shelters and on slabs of stone. In those paintings, they are shown performing various activities like hunting, dancing and doing other tasks. These paintings throw light on the tools, utensils and jewellery used by them. The cave paintings also showed early men running on wild horses, bison and bears.



▲ Prehistoric tools

Tools

Several tools made of stones, bones, horns of animals have been discovered at different places. They included hand-axes, scrapers, borers and clavers.

Some of them were polished too. Harpoons for fishing, needles for sewing, arrowheads, daggers were all made up of bones.

Let's Know More

The ingredients of the colour were mainly minerals like iron-ore and charcoal. They used the basic colours like red, green, white and ochre.

Pit houses

Early man built pit-houses that were dug into the ground with stairs or steps leading into them. This, probably protected them from harsh climatic conditions. There were cooking hearths on both inside and outside the huts which showed that they cooked food. Ash, charcoal, pottery, stone or clay oven have also been found in these pit houses.



▲ Pit house

Let's Recap

- Earliest ancestors of humans were Ramapithecus.
- Hominids were the apes that started living on the ground from the treetops.
- Early man was a hunter-gatherer.
- They lived on treetops, caves and rock-shelters.
- They covered themselves with leaves, animal skin and barks of trees.
- They hunted animals with stone tools.
- Discovery of fire and learning agriculture changed the life of early man.
- Early man turned into a producer and led a settled life.
- Cow, goat, sheep, cattle, horse and donkey were domesticated for milk, skin, meat, carrying loads and working in the fields.
- Invention of wheel has made life easy and fast.
- Potter's wheel was used to make clay pots to cook and store food.
- We come to know about the lives of early man through fossils, bones, cave paintings, utensils, tools etc.

Social Studies.

Chapter - 1.

EVOLUTION OF MAN

Inside Questions and Answers.

1) State two features of the Ramapithecus.

→ Two features of the Ramapithecus -

i) They weighed about 14 kg.

ii) They were small ape-like creatures.

2) Who are hominids?

→ Many many years ago, the apes that lived on treetops started living on the ground and stood on two limbs. They are called hominids.

3) Which race do ~~we~~ human beings belong to?

→ The race of homosapiens human beings belong to.

4) State three reasons why early man preferred staying near river banks.

→ Three reasons why early man preferred staying near river banks -

i) River banks had fertile land to grow crops.

ii) There was a regular supply of water for the fields and other activities.

iii) Rivers were used as a means of transport.

5) What were the pottery items used for?

→ The pottery items were used for storing grains, water and cooking food.

6) Where did initial evolution of human take place?

→ Initial evolution of human took place in Africa.

7) Where did the early man paint?

→ Early man painted on the walls of the caves, rock shelters and on slabs of stone.

8) What are various paintings of the early man showing?

→ Various paintings of the early man are showing their various activities like hunting, dancing, running on wild horses, bisons and bears.

9) Name some tools used by early men.

→ Some tools used by early men are hand-axes, scrapers, borers and clavers.

10) What are pit houses?

→ Pit houses are dug into the ground with stairs or steps leading into them.

Next Social Studies Class → Chapter 2 will be started.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE