

2 | The Age of Stones

LET'S FOCUS

The four stone ages

- Palaeolithic
- Mesolithic
- Neolithic
- Chalcolithic

Let's Begin



Write **S** for tools made of stone and **M** for tools made of metal.



As we have already learnt, early man was a hunter gatherer. He roamed from one place to another in search of food. He hunted animals, gathered fruits, roots, seeds and nuts. For all these activities, he used tools and weapons made of stone. He attached stones to handles of bones and wood, made weapons like spears and arrows to defend himself from the wild animals.

The early man used stones for different things—

- Hunting animals
- Removing the skin of animals, cutting meat and bones
- Cutting trees and cleaning forests



▲ Hunting animals

▲ Cutting trees

This particular period is called stone age as early man depended on stones primarily for their survival. On the basis of types and quality of tools used by early man, stone age is divided into four sub periods —

1. Paleolithic age
2. Mesolithic age
3. Neolithic age
4. Chalcolithic age

Let's Know More

'Flint' was a stone, used to make tools and weapons as it was very hard. Tools made with it were strong and lasted longer.

Paleolithic Age or Old Stone Age

(Paleo' means 'old' and 'lithos' means stone). Paleolithic Age is the period of evolution of mankind. It is the longest period of human time. The Paleolithic period began about 2 million years ago. It is further divided into three sub-periods on the basis of climatic changes and the stone tools used. They are—



▲ Some hand tools of stone

Lower Paleolithic Age (2.6 million years ago till 1,00,000 years ago)

It is the early old stone age, also called the 'Ice Age' or pleistocene period as most of the Earth was covered with snow. The climate was also extremely cold.

Early man used hand axes for chopping trees and hunting animals. These tools are also called **choppers**. These tools have been found in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh in India.

Let's Dig Out

Who coined the term 'Paleolithic'?

Middle Paleolithic Age (3,00,000 – 30,000 years ago)

In this period, early man used a variety of borers and scrapers made of stone. They too, have been found in Punjab and Madhya Pradesh.

Upper Paleolithic Age (45,000 – 10,000 years ago)

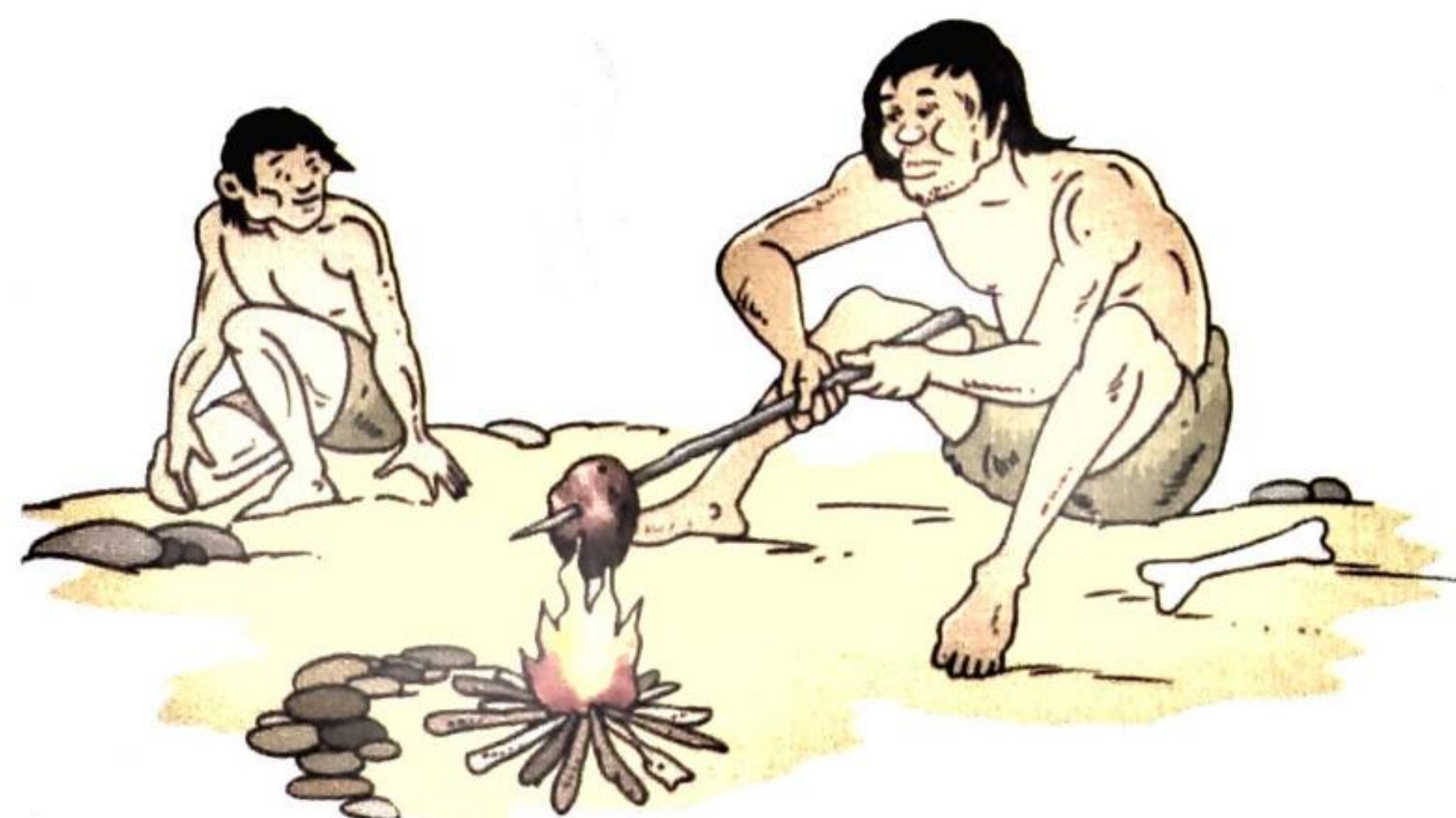
It was the final phase of the ice age. Agriculture had started towards its end. There was a drastic change in the climatic conditions. The climate turned warmer from extreme cold. Early man used blades and burins. Humans produced the earliest works of art and engaged in religious and spiritual acts like burials.

Mesolithic Age or Middle Stone Age

The Mesolithic age ('Meso' means 'Middle') lies between the Paleolithic age and the Neolithic age. It was a period of transition. Climate changed from colder to dry and warm. Paleolithic tools were small tools made by chipping. In this era, the tools were sharp and pointed. They were called **microliths**. There was great use of arrowheads and wooden handles as tools. The beginning of domestication of animals



▲ Microliths



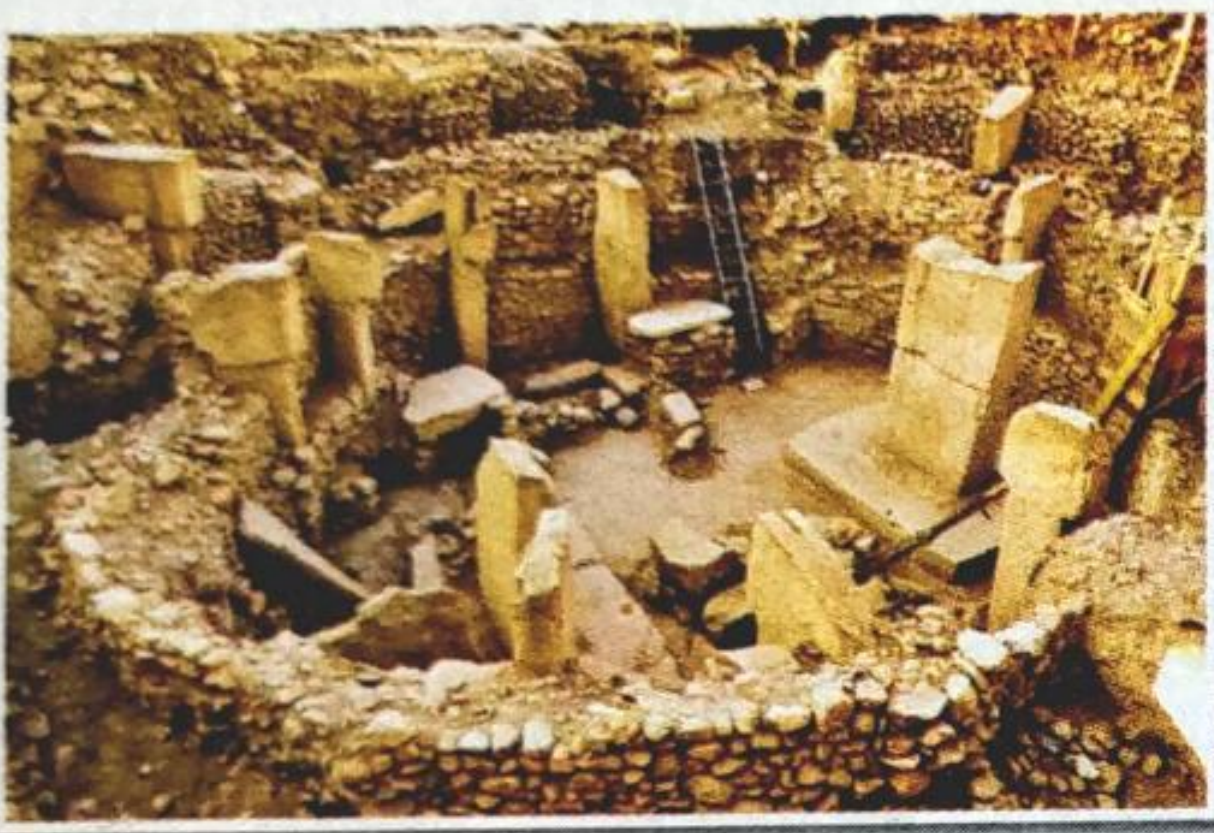
▲ Early man using fire

had been started, the earliest being a dog **fossil**. It was found in Chhota Nagpur in Jharkhand, on the banks of river Ganga between Ghazipur and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. It was a period in which early man began to control fire and develop a language. People formed settled communities and started living in huts instead of caves.

Neolithic Age or New Stone Age

Neolithic period ('Neo' means 'new') was a period in which the development of human technology began in some parts of the middle East and later spread out in other parts of the world. There were changes in the behaviours, cultures, agriculture, and domestication of animals.

Early Neolithic farming included some plants like wheat and millet. Dogs, cattle, sheep and goats were domesticated. Pottery was in use along with permanent settlements. Early Neolithic settlements were in Turkey, Mexico and Syria.



▲ A Neolithic site

Let's Do It

Surf internet and find out the important sites in India for — wheat, rice, millets, domesticating animals like sheep, goat, dog, cattle. Write your findings in a tabular form.

The tools used in this age were more advanced and sharper. Man learned to polish tools to give them a sparkling look. Tools included axes, sickles, spears and arrow heads, which were now pecked, ground, rubbed and polished with a better look. Mortars and pestles were important tools used for grinding grains.

Case Study

Mehrgarh is a Neolithic site located in Pakistan. It is one of the earliest sites with evidence of farming and herding. It was discovered in 1974 by an archaeological team led by French archaeologists, Jean Francois and Catherine Jurrige. There were evidences of continuous occupation. Bones of animals like deer, sheep, goats and cattle reveal the fact that people reared animals. Houses were made of mud and bricks, grains were stored in granaries and tools were made with local copper ore. Houses had four or more compartments, some of which were used for storage. Burial sites have also been found at Mehrgarh.



▲ Mehrgarh

There was development of pottery and weaving. It is quite possible that when men went hunting, women went to the forests to collect plants and fruits. They noticed that the seeds that fell on the ground grew into **saplings**. This led to the idea of farming which completely changed the early man's life.

Let's Dig Out

How did agriculture change the life of early man? Was there any improvement in their life?

Chalcolithic Age

From the stone age, man gradually learned to use copper along with stone tools. 'Chalcos' means 'copper'. Hence, Chalcolithic Age was the copper age. It was a period from around 3500 - 1700 BC. It was discovered that adding tin to copper formed a harder bronze—the Bronze Age. Chalcolithic Age was a period of transition from Neolithic to the Bronze Age. This age marked the presence of painted pottery. The dead were buried in a particular direction in a particular place. Pottery ranges

Let's Dig Out

What is the significance of Daojali Hading in Assam?

from red ware, deep redware, deep brown and black. The largest site of Chalcolithic Period is Daimabad situated on the bank of Pravara River (India).

Rectangular or circular houses were constructed with stone, mud, bricks and roofs of straw, bamboo and wood. Floors were made of clay. Barter system was used for trading between communities. Transport system included bullock carts and boats.



▲ Pottery

Various chalcolithic sites in different parts of India are found from Gangetic basin to Chhotanagpur plateau. People travelled long distances to obtain metal ores. Economy was based on agriculture, hunting and fishing. Cotton was grown in black soil. People were efficient coppersmiths and ivory carvers.

Let's Know More

The famous pottery items of chalcolithic age were—dishes on stand, spouted vases, stemmed cups and big storage jars. They were all painted, usually black on red.

Iron Age

Iron Age refers to an era in prehistory and protohistory when primarily iron was used to make tools. It was preceded by

the Bronze Age. It falls between 1200 BC to 600 BC. During this age, best tools and weapons were made from steel. They used **alloys** with carbon content.

Man took time to get an expertise in the knowledge and recognition of the superior quality of iron over bronze. Gradually, the usage of iron objects increased. Several new permanent settlements developed with the increase in the production of iron implements.



▲ Archaeological artefact

Extensive usage of iron brought weapons in the hands of the common man. It changed the face of Europe and Asia. In Europe, there were elaborate designs in weapons, ornaments and utensils.

Harappan civilization was followed by iron age in India. The main archaeological cultures of Northern India are painted grey ware and black polished ware.



▲ Metal plough



▲ Ornaments



▲ Utensils

Learning the art of making iron tools helped the blacksmiths in making better objects like the metal plough. It helped to plough the fields better which led to fine crop production. Buying and selling of crops became easier with the invention of coins. The blades of sickles, hooks and axes were made of iron.

Usage of iron in agriculture, made it not only easier and less strenuous but also helped the people to spare time



▲ Coins

Let's Dig Out

Collect information and pictures of any one of the earliest civilizations like Harappan, Egyptian, or Indus valley. Prepare a scrapbook and discuss in the class. How those times were different from today's times.

for other activities like making jewellery, sewing clothes, making salt and other craftwork. They all were traded with exchange of coins.

People, in the iron age, started living in larger and settled communities. The clans belonged to tribes that were led by warrior kings. Living in hill forts made them safe from attacks. The forts were surrounded by walls and ditches. People were guarded from the enemies by warriors. Inside the fort, houses were circular with one room, thatched and pointed roofs, walls made of mud and twigs mixed together. In the centre of the house there was a fire place to cook food. Beds were made with straw covered with animal skins. Farmers grew crops, tamed animals like geese, goats, pigs, sheep and cattle. People worked as potters, carpenters and metalworkers. Men and boys were given training as warriors.

Let's Recap

- Stone Age was the era when tools and weapons were made of stone.
- Early man used stones for hunting, cutting meat, trees and removing the skin of animals.
- Stone Age is divided into—Paleolithic age, Mesolithic age, Neolithic age and Chalcolithic age.
- Chalcolithic Age was also known as the copper age.
- In the Iron Age, iron was primarily used to make tools.

Date:- 12 June 2020

Day:- Friday

SOCIAL STUDIES

CHAPTER - 2

THE AGE OF STONES

Word Meanings -

Choppers - tools used for cutting trees and hunting animals.

Microoliths - small, pointed stone tools.

Fossil - remains of the animal embedded in rock.

Sapling - tiny plant

Alloy - mixture of two or more metals.

Exercise

A. Put a tick on the correct option.

1) Tools and weapons were made of stone in
a) iron age , b) Chalcolithic age , c) stone age

2) It is a hard stone.
a) Flint , b) Sandstone , c) Brick

3) The final phase of Ice Age was
a) lower Paleolithic ,
b) Upper Paleolithic ,
c) Middle Paleolithic .

- 4) 'Chalcos' means
a) chocolate, b) iron , c) Copper .

B. Fill in the blanks.

- 1) Stone tools had handles of bones and wood.
- 2) Old Stone age is the longest period of man's evolution.
- 3) Earliest domesticated animals were the dogs, cattle.
- 4) Human technology developed in neolithic age.
- 5) Chalcolithic age was a period from 3500 B.C. to 1700 B.C.

c. Match the following:

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1) Iron Age | a) Old Stone Age [2] |
| 2) Paleolithic Age | b) Daimabad (India) [5] |
| 3) Mesolithic Age | c) Polished Tools [1] |
| 4) Neolithic Age | d) Permanent settlements developed [4] |
| 5) Chalcolithic Age | e) Microliths [3] |

To be continued in the next
Social Studies class.

Next class → Next Friday.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.