

CHAPTER 2
ON THE TRAIL OF THE
EARLIEST PEOPLE

People who lived in the subcontinent as early as two million years ago are known as hunter-gatherers. They hunted wild animals, caught fish and birds, gathered fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves, stalks and eggs.

Why did earliest people moved from place to place?

- If they had stayed at one place for a long time, they would have eaten up all the available plant and animal resources.
- Animals move from place to place in search of smaller prey, or, in the case of deer and wild cattle, in search of grass and leaves. That is why those who hunted them had to follow their movements.
- Plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons. So, people may have moved from season to season in search of different kinds of plants.
- They needed water to survive. So they moved wherever they found water was available.

How do we know about early people?

- Archaeologists have found some of the tools hunter-gatherers made and used.
- They made and used tools of stone, wood and bone, of which stone tools have survived best.
- Tools were used to cut meat and bone, scrape bark (from trees) and hides (animal skins), chop fruit and roots.

Where did early man live?

- They lived near sources of water such as rivers and lakes.
- Early people tried to find places where good quality stone was easily available.
- Places where stone was found and where people made tools are known as factory sites
- These sites are called habitation-cum-factory sites as people resided nearby and made tools also.

Stone Age

The period when mostly stone tools were made is known as stone age.

It is divided into three parts:

- 1) Paleolithic or old stone age
- 2) Mesolithic or middle stone age
- 3) Neolithic or new stone age

Discovery of fire

- 1) Accidentally one of the biggest discoveries made by man was fire.
- 2) Over a period of time, man learnt several uses of fire.
- 3) It is used in winters to keep warm and use it in the art of cooking food

Early rock paintings

- 1) Man early caves had paintings on the wall.
- 2) These were found in Madhya Pradesh and Southern Uttar Pradesh.
- 3) Early humans painted and what they felt in these paintings.
- 4) They depicted men hunting , women grinding , children jumping etc.

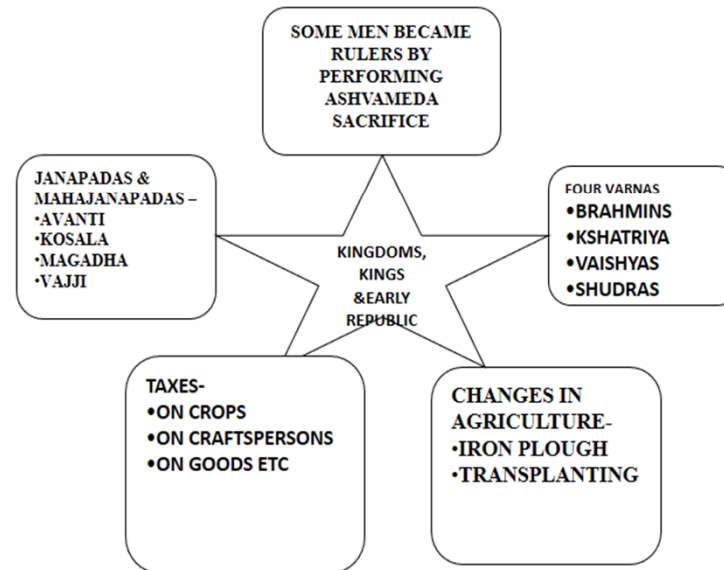
The Deccan

- 1) Palaeolithic sites have been found in the Deccan .
- 2) Some major sites are Chirki – Nevasa in Maharashtra

Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and Hungsi in Karnataka

- 1) Rivers like Godavari ,Krishna and Tapti drained the region .
- 2) Large number of Palaeolithic tools made from stone have been found along the river .
- 3) Archaeologists are studying these tools carefully to understand the life of early man.
- 4) Bones , horns and tusks of animals like elephant and wild fox have been found

MIND MAPPING



Thank you