

UNIT

2

Towards History



Learning Objectives

Students can:

- ❖ know about the Stone Age.
- ❖ understand the Nature of Human Evolution.
- ❖ understand the Human Nomadic life.



QSLV1R

Stone Age

In the beginning humans were not aware of metals. They took several years to discover metals. Our lives today are their gifts. During this period humans were not aware of scripts. The **Stone Age** is the period in which **Stones** were used as **weapons**.



Stone weapons

Nature of Human Evolution

Early humans lived in jungles along with animals. They used stone tools to protect themselves, drive away animals, dig out roots, shoots etc. The most important thing is that they ate everything raw including flesh. They did not know the use of fire in the beginning. At first, dog was their good companion. Wild animals ran away when dogs barked. **Dog** was the first pet animal. They took it wherever they went.



Later they started rearing cattle and were very useful to them. They observed some **grains** growing along the river side. They ate and found them very tasty. They observed that the scattered grains were eaten up by birds. They were keen observers. They found that the grains grow with the help of **sunshine** and **rainfall**. Thus, they learnt the art of **cultivation**.

Humans noticed **forest fire**. At first they were afraid of fire. They found some animals died due to fire. They ate the flesh of the burnt animals. It tasted good. They also observed that the **spark** came out by scratching two stones together. Since then, they ate cooked food.



- Early man used **Quartzite**, a type of stone for making **tools** and **weapons**.
- A type of stone called **Flint stone** was used to produce **fire**.

Nomadic Life

Early humans did not know to grow crops. They wandered in all the landscapes in search of food. They ate whatever they got and drank water from natural sources. This kind of life was called **nomadic life**. They wore **skins of animals, leaves** and **barks of trees** to cover their body. They lived in **caves** and **holes of big trees**.



Stones were sharpened as tools by them. They made it with the help of other stones too. These sharp tools were used to hunt animals and tear their flesh.



They used **bones, horns, stones, skin, branches of trees** and **sticks** as their tools and weapons.

This stage of development in history was called **New stone age** or **Neolithic age**.



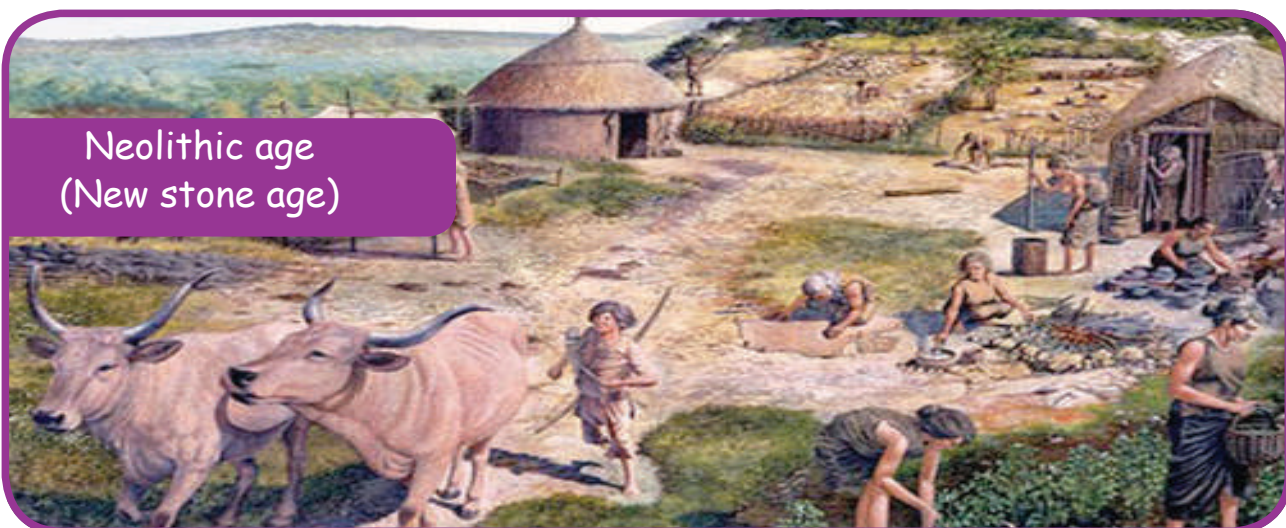
Stone age



Palaeolithic age
(old stone age)








Mesolithic age
(Middle stone age)



Neolithic age
(New stone age)








செயல்பாடு
நாம் செய்வோம்

1. What were the food eaten by early humans?

2. Why did early humans live in caves?

3. Why did they eat raw flesh?




- Early humans used **weapons** to protect themselves from animals.
- They used **torches** to find the path at night.
- They **drew paintings** of what they saw around them on the walls of the caves where they lived.

Stone wheels

When the stones rolled from the mountains they acquired a round shape. Humans observed them and thus wheel was invented. In the beginning it was made of stone and later by wood. **Wheel** is the first scientific invention of man.





The period which has written documents are called **Historical Period**. These documents help us to know about the life styles of the people, events, food habits, culture, art, architecture, literature and so on.



Pottery

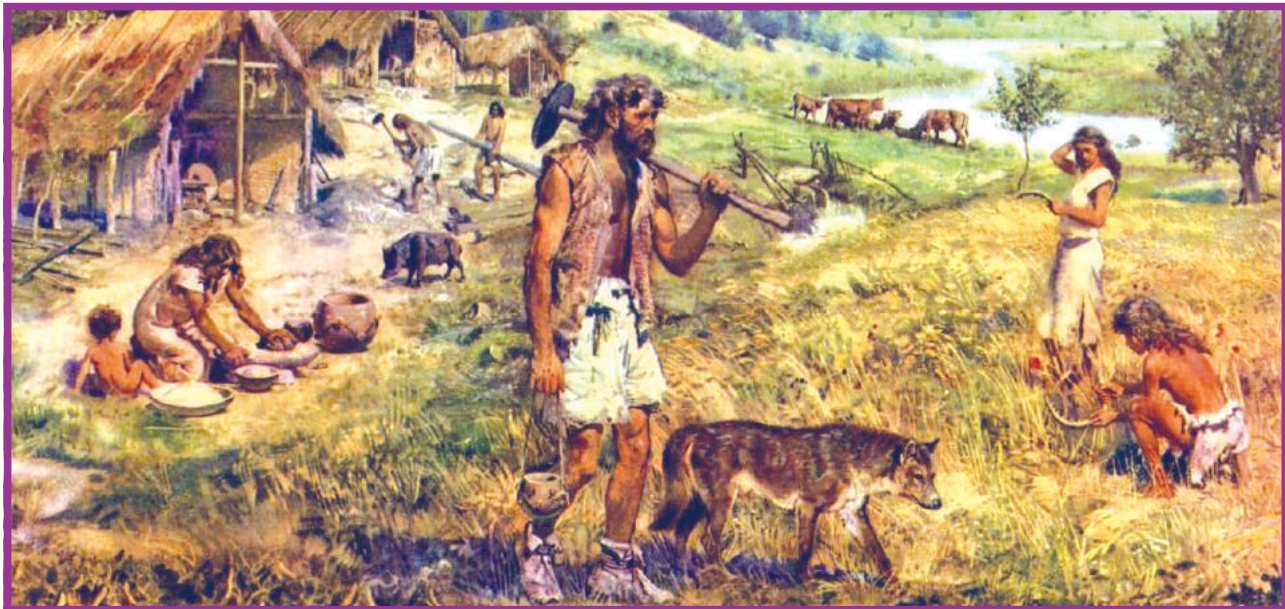
Pottery was also one of the greatest inventions by humans. The baked pot was strong and looked beautiful. Stone Age people made all the household artefacts by themselves.

Stone houses were built. The roofs of these houses were thatched with sticks and husks. After several inventions, humans started to live in a settled life.



Agriculture

Agriculture was an important activity in the history of humans. They started cultivating crops. They sowed seeds and harvested crops. They found it convenient to live along the river as the crops grew well.



Museum is a place where archaeological objects are preserved, which were used by our ancestors. These give information about the lives of ancient people. Therefore it is important to preserve the remains of the past.



Progress in man's life

Man → family → society → Community → administration



There were burial pots called urns in which the dead bodies were placed and buried under the ground.

Chalcolithic Age

At the end of New Stone Age **copper** was invented. In this age both stone and copper were used. This period was called **Chalcolithic Age**. Bronze was produced when copper, zinc and tin were mixed together. The period when people made tools from bronze was called **Bronze Age**.

Iron Age

After this, humans discovered iron and started using iron tools and weapons. This age was called **Iron Age**. In this age household articles and agricultural tools were made up of iron.



ACTIVITY
Let us write



Write the names of some iron tools in your home.

Sickle, Spade, _____



Archaeological excavations

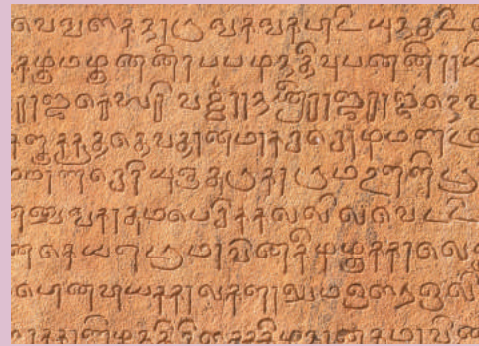
Coins, potsherds, metal objects and so on are dug out from **Archaeological sites**. Such objects are preserved in the **museum**. In Tamilnadu, **Athichanallur**, **Arikkamedu** and **Keeladi** are such sites where the objects used by the people of the past are excavated. Still research is going on in these sites.



If you come across any old, traditional objects of historical value try to **collect and preserve** them.



Scripts inscribed about a king's rule, people or society on rocks and walls are called inscriptions usually they are found on temple walls.



Think



What is
Numismatics?

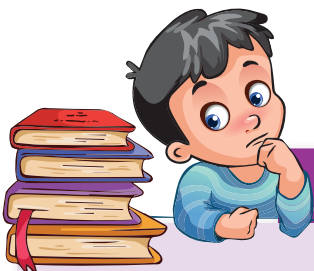


Glossary

Artefacts : articles made by humans

Excavate : dig out

Potsherds : broken pottery fragments



Recap

- The Stone Age is the period in which Stones were used as weapons.
- Stone Age is classified as Palaeolithic age, Mesolithic age and Neolithic age



EVALUATION



I. Choose the best answer.

1. Palaeolithic humans,
a) wore cotton clothes b) wore woolen clothes.
c) wore leaves and skin of animals
2. _____ was the first pet animal of man.
a) Cow b) Horse c) Dog
3. What was the first metal discovered by early human?
a) Iron b) Copper c) Gold

II. Fill in the blanks.

1. Early man lived in _____.
2. The Stone Age is the period in which Stones were used as _____.
3. _____ was used to produce fire.
4. _____ is the first scientific invention of man.
5. At the end of New Stone Age, _____ was invented.



III. Answer the following.

1. What is Stone Age?
2. Write a short note on Nomadic Life.
3. Define Neolithic age.
4. Write a short note on Pottery.
5. Name some Archaeological sites in Tamil Nadu.

IV. Answer in detail.

1. How can we classify the Stone Age?
2. Write about Chalcolithic Age and Iron Age.