

The Lives of the Hunter-Gatherers

F. Long-answer questions:

- 1.** Write two differences between the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic Periods.
- 2.** Differentiate between factory and habitation sites.
- 3.** How did the discovery of tools help man? Explain with examples.
- 4.** Describe the life led by the hunter-gatherers.

Solutions

F. Long-answer questions:

1. Palaeolithic Period extends from c200/000 to 12,000 BCE. Mesolithic Period extends from 12,000 BCE to 10,000 BCE. Crude stone tools were used in the Palaeolithic Period. Small and sharp tools called microliths were made during the Mesolithic Period.
2. The places where humans lived are called habitation sites. These were mostly near rivers or lakes. The places where stone tools were made are called factory sites. These are located close to the source of raw materials and are marked by an abundance of stone tools in different stages of preparation. Sometimes people lived in the factory sites for very long to make tools. These sites are then called factory-cum- habitation sites.
3. With the help of tools they could perform some tasks easily and also protect themselves from wild animals. Making the tools required time, effort, skill and patience. Stone tools were used to kill animals, scrape the animal skins, dig roots, and chop meat and fruits.
4. The lives led by the hunter-gatherers were not very different from those of other animals. They spent all day prowling about in the jungles and swamps, protecting themselves from other beasts and searching for food. Life consisted of collecting fruits, seeds, and nuts, leaves, digging up roots, trapping animals and birds for food and killing them with stone tools. They had to take whatever nature offered. Securing food was not easy. They had to be very alert, quick and strong. Gradually they learnt to distinguish which berries were poisonous, which parts of the plants were edible which animals were easy to kill and how to catch fish in the rivers. They learnt to use tell-tale signs such as footprints and broken branches to hunt down animals. They studied the land and learnt where animals would gather or take shelter. Also, they learnt that bees made honey which was sweet. They could not stock food, so their food obtaining activities came to a halt when they had enough.