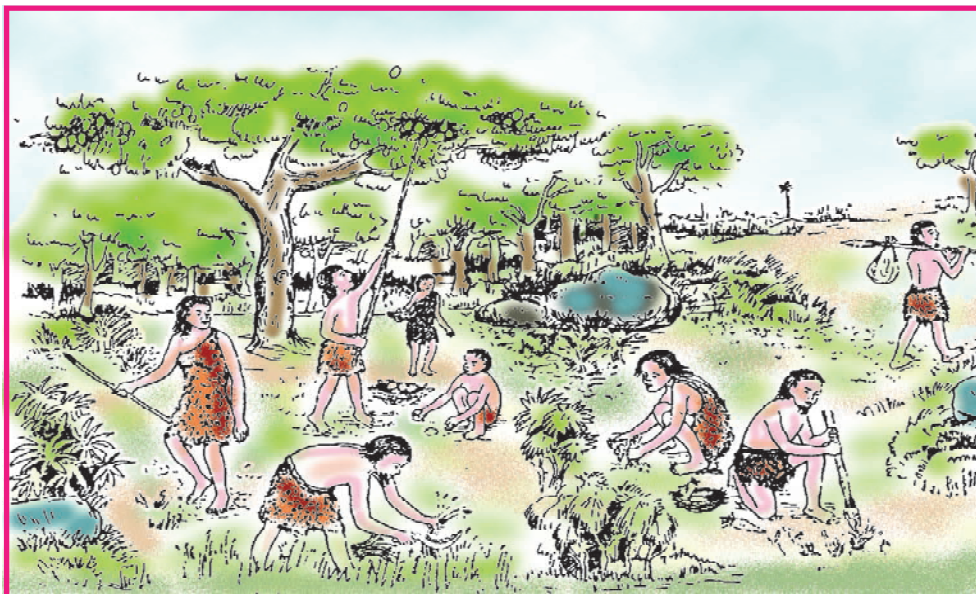


## 2. EARLY MAN



**Pic. 2.1 Food Gathering**

**Look at these pictures and discuss what is shown in them.**

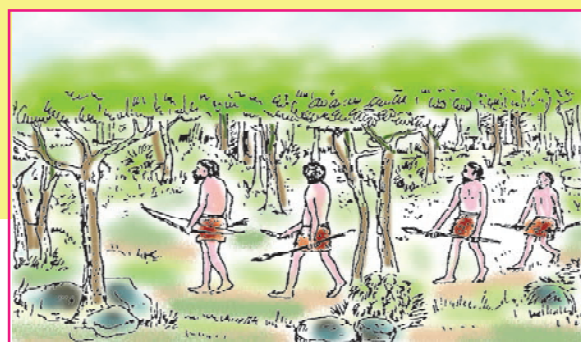
Thousands of years ago our ancestors did not live like us. They lived in forests and would collect and eat wild berries, nuts, roots and fruits. They would hunt animals and eat their meat. These days most of the things which we eat are grown in the fields. But, in those days, farming was not done.



**Pic. 2.2**

1. **Can you tell which items in your food are collected from forests ?**
2. **What are the differences in your food and that of the early man ?**
3. **Did the early man need utensils and stoves ?**

Early man used to live in small groups. But they neither built houses nor lived at one place. When fruits, roots, prey etc. would finish in the forest, the group would move to



**Pic. 2.3 Hunting**



another place. This way they kept wandering from one place to another, in search of food.

They would use leaves, bark of trees and animal's skin to cover their bodies. Both men and women wore ornaments made out of wood, shells, bones shining stones etc.

1. **Why did Early man not build houses ?**
2. **Early man didn't have houses Where did they spend their nights ?**
3. **Why did the early man not wear cotton and woollen clothes ?**
4. **In the forest there must have been several ferocious animals.**
5. **How did they protect themselves from them ?**
6. **Why was the early man wandering from one place to another ?**

## STONE TOOLS

In those days people were not familiar with metals like iron and brass. They would use stones, which they could easily find around them. This piece of stone was their first tool and weapon. They would give shape to the stone according to their need. Earliest tools were made by chipping stones. Later, smaller chips were fixed on wood or bone to make useful tools. Tools which can be easily held in hand like hammer, spear, axe etc. were made.



pic 2.4 Tools made of stone

For hunting they made bows, arrows and spears with pointed stones. Bones and horns of animals were also used as weapons. Tools were used for gathering food, digging the earth, pulling out roots and tubers and skinning animals.

**Look at the shape of the stones in pic 2.3, and tell what can be done by them?**  
**Why is this age called the stone age?**

## USE OF FIRE

It is believed that either when tools were made or in some other way when two stones struck together - sparking must have taken place. As a result dried leaves and grass must have caught fire. This way accidentally our ancestors discovered how to light fire. Gradually, man started using fire in several ways-to scare away wild animals, to roast meat, to protect themselves in winter etc.



## HOW TO FIND OUT ?

Do you know that even today there are people in the world who depend on the forests? They do not settle down permanently at one place and keep wandering in search of food. They eat roots, tubers, wild berries, fruits and even go on hunting. In the forest areas of Chhattisgarh like Bastar and Sarguja the life of people is based on hunting and gathering forest produce.

The study of their life style helps us in imagining the life of the early man. Besides this, several things have been found from excavations like stone tools and weapons made out of bones of animals etc. Even today we can see several pictures on the walls of the caves which were made thousands of years ago. All these things help us to understand the life of the early man.

## GROUP LIFE

Early man lived in small groups and had a feeling of co-operation. Women and children would collect fruits, berries and grains. Men would hunt together. Sometimes both men and women would hunt together and even collect berries. This way whatever they got would be shared by all. Nothing was saved. Everyone had equal rights on all the things of the group. No one was rich or poor.

There was no division of work. Everyone would do all sorts of work like making stone tools, hunting, collecting fruits and berries etc.

**Why could no one be rich or poor in the society of the early man?**

## RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS AND BELIEFS

Early man was very close to nature and believed that they were related to plants, trees, birds, animals etc. They had faith in gods. They believed that if gods were pleased, they would get good things to eat. To please gods they would sing and dance. They would also enact hunting of wild animals.

With this faith they drew colourful pictures on the cave walls. They might have believed that this would bring success in their hunting. Rock paintings of the early man have been found in the Kabara hill and Singhanpur of Raigarh district and the caves of Chitwadongri and Dondilohara in Durg district. These drawings are colourful. There are drawings of eligators (ghariyal), lizards and other animals. The drawings in the Singhanpur



**pic 2.5 Paintings from Singhanpur and Kabra caves**



Early Man

caves are of deep red colour. Human figures and several other line drawing can be seen too. Hunting of animals is also depicted. Sketches like that of a ladder is a speciality of these drawings.

- 1. Discuss with the teacher - how would the early man make colours for the drawing ?**
- 2. Is the practice of drawing, singing and dancing still present? - If yes, give some examples.**

A lot of knowledge about this earth which the early man had acquired with his hard work and wisdom, has been of great help to us. They had found out which fruits and plants are edible, which plants have medicinal value, and which plants are poisonous. They had control over fire. They found out the right type of wood and stones to make weapons. They found the ways to enter thick forests. They recognized the qualities of plants, trees and animals; and on its basis started agriculture and domestication of animals.

## **BEGINNING OF AGRICULTURE AND ANIMAL HUSBANDRY**

About ten thousand years ago, changes had started taking place in the life of the early man- a food gatherer. People living in different parts of the world had started domesticating animals and growing plants.

## **DOMESTICATED ANIMALS**

The first animal to be domesticated was the dog. Dogs would eat the left over food and help in hunting. After this other animals like sheep, goats and cows were also domesticated.

- 1. What benefit do men get from these animals ?**
- 2. What are the things which they could not get from hunting ?**

## **AGRICULTURE**

We have seen that initially there was no agriculture. May be that there was no need of it as they could easily get sufficient amount to eat. But later on, that is about ten thousand years ago, several groups had started growing grains. They had learnt that the thrown away seeds and grains grow again into plants. Slowly agriculture spread all over the world. In the Indian sub-continent agriculture had started about five to six thousand years ago.





Initially, farming was not a permanent one, that is - sowing the same field again and again. A patch of the forest would be cleared and farming would be done for two or three years. Then this piece of land would be left and a new one would be cleared for agriculture. This type of agriculture is called shifting agriculture or 'jhum' agriculture. Even about 50-100 years ago shifting agriculture was practiced especially in the North Eastern states and other tribal areas. It is still in vogue in some places especially in the tribal areas of Bastar and Sarguja districts of Chhattisgarh.

## PERMANENT SETTLEMENTS

**What changes might have come in the lives of people after adopting agriculture ? Discuss in the class.**

A great change came in the lives of people after they started farming. The cultivated areas started expanding. They would still go for hunting but now it was not necessary to wander for food. Now people started settling permanently at one place. Because of farming they had to live in one place for a longer time - as sowing and harvesting would take quite some time. People had to work on the fields and take care of the crops. When harvesting would be over they needed to store it for future use also. So people started building houses and settling down near their fields.

The houses were constructed with wood, mud, grass, leaves etc. Houses would be near streams, rivers and lakes. They surrounded their houses by a common fence for protection from wild animals.

For storing surplus grains they started making big vessels. Utensils and stoves were made to boil milk and cook food. Grinding stones were made to grind grains. This way in this period people had started making several new things.

People worshipped earth and nature and considered it to have super natural powers and represent the mother goddess. To please these powers they performed poojas, songs and dances, and sacrificed animals.

## EXERCISE

### I. Fill in the blanks

1. Tools were made more useful by tying them to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Caves of Singhanpur are situated in \_\_\_\_\_ district.
3. In India agriculture had started \_\_\_\_\_ thousand years ago.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ was the first animal domesticated by the early people.



## II. Answer the questions

1. What problems would the early man have faced if he had settled at one place ?
2. Of which materials were the tools of the early people made ?
3. How can we know about the life of the early people ?
4. What are the speciality of the rock paintings found in Chhattisgarh ?
5. How were the early people benefitted by domestication of animals ?
6. Why did the people had to settle at one place after they started farming ?
7. Why did the agriculturists worship earth as mother goddess ?

## III. Project work

1. Draw the tools of the Stone Age.
2. In early times there was no farming, then how did they fill their belly?

