

Revision Notes

Class 6 History

Chapter 2 – From Hunting-Gathering to Growing Food

This chapter tells about the transformation of the human habit of collecting food. This transformation started with hunting-gathering and moved to grow food. In the early period, people used to gather food by hunting and gathering. They depended upon other animals and plants to meet their food requirements. Gradually, as civilization started, people started realizing the need of growing food. The hunting and gathering of food were entirely resourcing constraints. So, they learnt to grow food.

Lives of the earliest people

Around two million years ago, people used to hunt and gather only as far as the way of acquiring food was concerned. During this, wild animals were hunted and fish and birds were caught. Other than this fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves, stalks and eggs were collected by them for eating. People at that time used to travel from one place to another. The reasons for travelling are given below:

- (i). The resource was limited to one particular place. when the resources were exhausted then they used to move to another place.
- (ii). Mostly they were dependent upon other animals. As animals also moved from one place to another for their needs of food so does the human beings.
- (iii). Water was an important requirement for plants, people and animals in order to survive. The source of water was rivers, lakes and streams. Therefore human beings had to travel long distances in search of water in the dry season.

Sources of information about the earliest people

- (i). The archaeologists have found things that resemble weapons and tools used by hunters and gatherers.
- (ii). Early people made various tools used for hunting and gathering from stones, woods and bones.
- (iii). Archaeologists have also found some stone tools which tells the lifestyle of the earliest people.
- (iv). Apart from the above-mentioned tools, some of the stone tools were used to cut down wood. Wood was used to to light fire.

(v). Their huts and tools were made up of woods.

(vi). Archaeological evidence shows, human beings that time used to live were on the banks of rivers, lakes and streams.

(vii). They used to search for a place where sufficient availability of stones, wood and food was present.

Hunting-gathering to herding

A change in the climatic condition in the world around 12,000 years ago made the weather condition warmer than earlier.

Grasslands were developed in many parts of the world. The number of animals like deer, goat, sheep and cattle increased due to the increase in grasslands.

People by now had learnt about the food habits and breeding seasons of these animals. Fishing was also very popular activity at that time.

Development of farming and herding:

Various grain bearing grasses grew naturally at the subcontinents which included mainly wheat, barley and rice. These grains were selected normally done by women and children. They also tried to make themselves familiar with the ins and outs of basics farming. In this way the men became farmers. Taming of animals was done by the people. The first animal which was domesticated by men was the dog. Later they started domestication of sheep, goat, and cattle as well. In this way men started herding.

Starting of a new era

After learning to grow food grains, human beings realized the need for storing them as well. The grains were collected and stocked up for both food and seed. Large clay pots, woven baskets or dug pits were used by them for storage. p

Animals products like cows, goats and cattle were nurtured well than they used to give milk and meat as per their requirement. Milk was one of the major sources of food at that time.

Plants and animals bones were recovered by the scientists which confirms the settlements of farmers and herders. One of the major sources for archaeologists was the remains of burnt grain.

Traces of huts and houses were also found by the archaeologists in different parts of the subcontinent. Cooking hearths were found.

The stone tools belonged to the Neolithic age were different from that of tools of Palaeolithic age. The tools of the Neolithic age were polished and given an accurate cutting edge. Some tools were made of bones that belonged to Palaeolithic age.

In the beginning of the Neolithic age, earthen pots were discovered. People used to cook in these earthen pots. They also had learnt to weave clothes at that time, like the major clothes that were used by the people of the Neolithic age was cotton