



LUCKNOW IAS ACADEMY

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Class 6th History NCERT Summary

Chapter 1: WHAT, WHERE , HOW AND WHEN ?

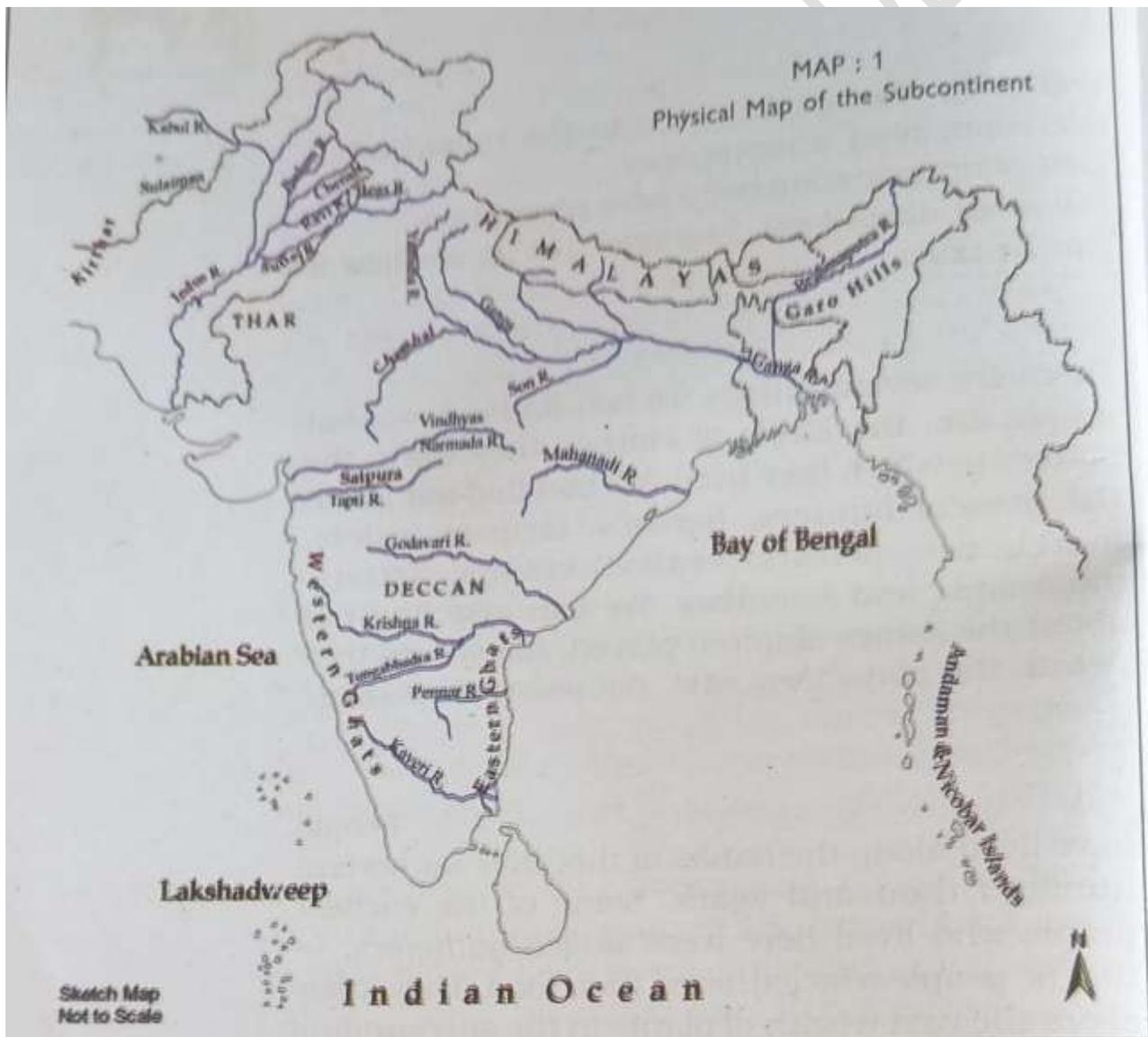
What can we know about the past?

1. What people ate.
2. The kind of clothes they wore.
3. The houses in which they lived.
4. We can find out about lives of hunters, herders , farmers , rulers , villagers , craftsmen , merchants , priests . artists, musicians and scientists.
5. Games children played.
6. The stories they heard
7. The plays they saw.
8. The songs they sang.

Where did people live?

1. People have lived along the banks of Narmada for several hundred thousand years
2. They were Hunters and gatherers
3. People living in the areas near **Sulaiman and Kirthar** ranges were some the first to grow crops such as wheat and barley about 1000 years ago
4. They also reared animals like cattle, sheep goat, and lived in villages.
5. Garo hills to the north - east and Vindhya in Central India- these were some other area where agriculture developed.
6. The places where rice was first grown are to the North of Vindhya.

7. About 4700 years ago some of the earliest cities flourished around the banks of river Indus and its tributaries.
8. About 2500 years ago cities developed on the banks of river Ganga and its tributaries and along the sea coasts.
9. In ancient times the area along Ganga and Son and to the South of Ganga was known as Mgadha.
10. Some people travelled from one place to another in search of knowledge, trade, adventure, to escape floods and drought etc.
11. All this led to sharing of ideas between people.



Name of the Land:

- India from Indus, called Sindhu in Sanskrit.
- Bharata from a group of people who lived in the north-west, and who are also mentioned in Rigveda.

Finding out the past:

1. Manuscripts
2. Latin 'manu', literally meaning hand.
3. Usually written on palm leaf.
4. Or on specially prepared bark of tree as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas.
5. Inscriptions-written on stone or metal.
6. Sanskrit and Prakrit language was used.
7. Archaeologist excavate and study objects which survived.
8. Historians, scholars who study the past, often use the word source to refer to the information found from manuscripts, inscriptions and archaeology.

**Manuscripts****Rock Inscription**

Some important dates-

1. The beginning of agriculture-8000 years ago.
2. The first cities on Indus 4700 years ago.
3. Cities in Ganga valley, big kingdom in Magadha-2500 years ago.

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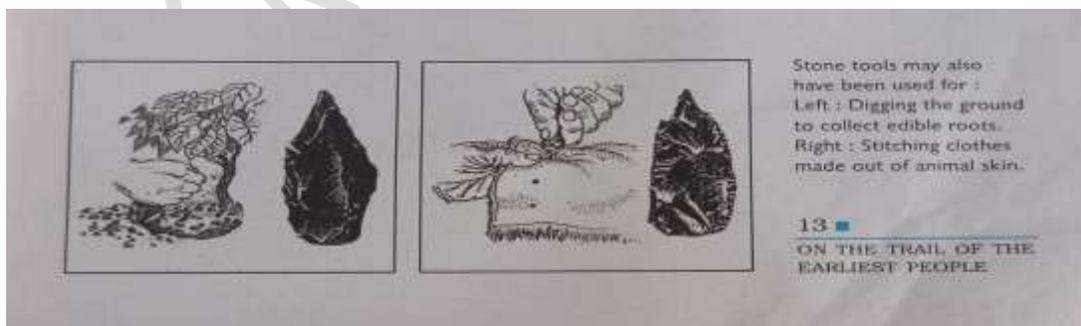
Chapter - 2: From Hunting - Gathering To Growing Food

The earliest people why were they on the move?

- Hunter - gatherer the name comes from the way the people used to gather their food as early as two million years ago.
- Several reasons were responsible for the hunter gatherers moving from place to place-
 - a) if they have stayed at one place for long time, they would have eaten up all the available and plant resources.
 - b) Animals move from place to place.
 - c) Plants and trees bear fruit in different seasons.
 - d) People, plants and animals need water to survive people living on the banks or near seasonal rivers or lakes, ponds etc. Had to go in search of water during dry seasons (winter and summer).

How do we know about these people?

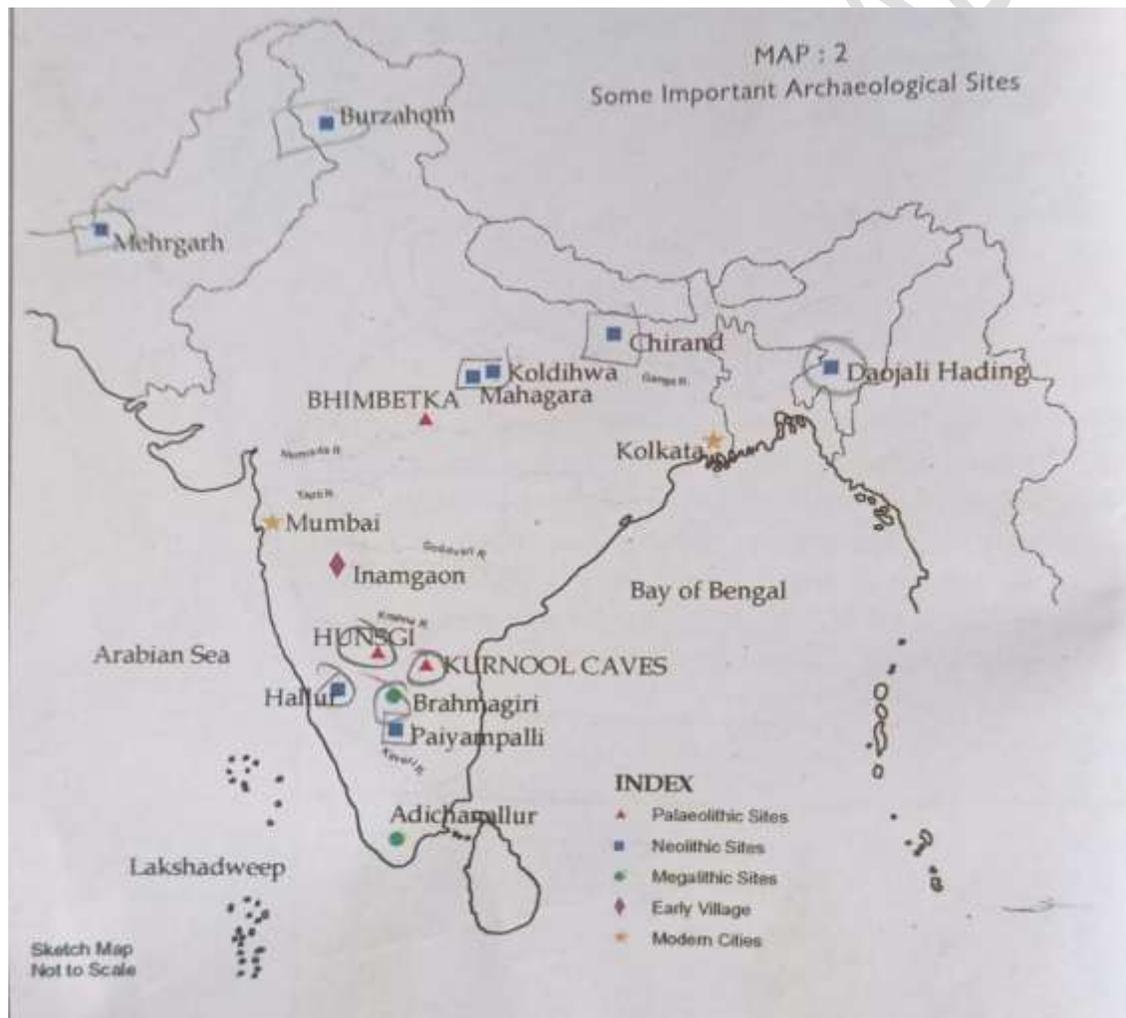
- Archaeologists have found tools used by the hunter -gatherers, the tools were made up of wood, bone and stone of which stone tools have survived best.
- Wood was used to make hits and tools.
- Tools were used to cut meat and bone, scrape bark and hides, chop fruit and roots or attached to handles of bones or wood to make spears and arrows.



Choosing a place to live in

Look at the map below:

- All the places marked with triangle are the sites from which archaeologist have found evidence of hunter gatherer. Eg - Bhimbetka , Hunsgi , Kurnool caves.
- Many sites were located near sources of water, such as rivers and lakes.
- As good quality stone was available in these places for making stone tools.
- Bhimbetka , Madhya Pradesh is an old site with caves and rock shelters People chose these natural caves because they provided shelter from rain , heat and wind.
- These rock shelters were close to Narmada valley.



Rocks Painting and what do they tell us:

- Many of the caves have painting on the wall.
- Some of the best examples are from Madhya Pradesh and Southern Uttar Pradesh.
- These paintings show wild animals, drawn with great accuracy and skill.

**Sites:**

They are places where the remains of tools, pots, buildings etc. were found.

Finding out about fire:

- Traces of ash has been found in Kurnool.
- It suggests fire was known to the people.

Names and dates:

- Earliest period is called **Palaeolithic**. This comes from two Greek words ' **palaeo**', meaning old, and ' **lithos**', meaning stone.
- The name points to the importance of the stone tools.
- Time period- 2 million years ago to about 12,000 years ago.
- It is further divided into-

(a) Lower Palaeolithic

(b) Middle Palaeolithic

(c) Upper Palaeolithic

This long span of time covers 99% of human history.

	Lower Palaeolithic	Middle Palaeolithic	Upper Palaeolithic
Time Period	5,00,000-50,000 BCE	3,85,000-40,000 BCE	40,000-10,000 BCE
Stone tools	Some tools were rough and heavy. Hands axes, choppers and cleavers.	Use of stone tools made up of flakes, mainly scrapers Borers, points blade like.	Innovation in tools and technology. Parallel sided blades, burins and some instances of bone tools.
Sites	Son and Sohan river valley (Pakistan), Kashmir, Thar desert (didwana, Rajasthan), Hiran Valley (Gujarat), rockshelters of Bhimbetka (M.P.), and Belan valley Mirzapur(U.P.).	Son, Narmada and Tungbhadra river valleys, Potwar Plateau (between Indus and Jhelum).	Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra Central Uttar Pradesh, Southern Uttar Pradesh and Chotanagpur plateau. Bone tools found only in cave sites of Kurnool and Muchchatla Chnitamani Gavi in Andhra Pradesh whereas incised ostrich eggshell, shell and stone beads have been

			found in Andhra Pradesh and Patna in Maharashtra.
	Covers the greater part of ice age	Named after site of Nevsa, Maharashtra.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homo sapiens first appeared at the end of this phase. • Last phase of ice age. • Climate became comparatively warmer and less humid.

A changing Environment:

- Around 12,000 years ago, the climate shifted to relatively warm conditions.
- This led to development of grasslands.
- Increase in number of deer, antelope, goat, sheep and cattle.
- People started to think of herding and rearing.
- Fishing became important.

The beginning of farming and herding:

- Several grain bearing grasses, including wheat, barley and rice grew naturally in different parts of subcontinent.
- People learnt about crops and led them to think about growing plants on their own.
- In this way people become farmers.
- Dog was first animal to be tamed.
- Later sheep, cattle, pig , goat lived in herds and ate grass people protected them from wild animals thus becoming herders.

A new way of life:

- Growing of plants made people to stay in the same place for long time.
- Grains needed to be stored for both food and seed.
- People began making large clay pots or woven baskets, or dug pits in the ground.

Storing Animals:

- Animals that can be reared can be used as a 'store' of food.

Finding about first farmers and herders:

- All the sites marked as square in the map are important sites for farmers and herders.
- Burnt grain found.

Towards a settled life:

- Archaeologists have found traces of huts or houses for instance , in Bursahom people built pit houses , which were ding into the ground , with steps leading into them.
- Cooking hearths have been found both inside and outside the huts.
- Neolithic tools were polished to give a fine cutting edge.
- Mortars and pestles were used for grinding grain and other plant produce similar to present times.
- Many kinds of earthern pets have been found • People began using pots for cooking pot.
- Grains like rice, wheat and lentils became an important part of diet.
- They began weaving clothes out of cotton.

A closer look- Living and dying in Mehrgarh:

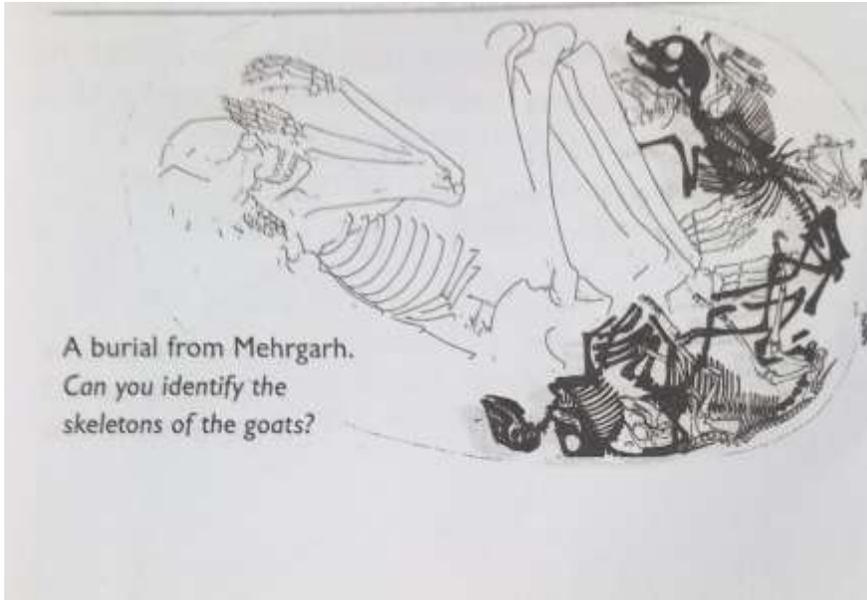
- **Mehrgarh-** this site is located in a fertile plain, near Bolan pass, which is one of the most important routes into Iran.
- Mehrgarh was probably one of the places where people learnt to grow barley and wheat , and rear sheep and goats for the first time in this area.

- It is one of the earliest village we know about.
- Many animal bones are found:
 - (a) Deer
 - (b) Pig
 - (c) Sheep goat
- **Mehrgarh** - remains of square or rectangular houses.



- Each house had four or more compartments , some of which have been used for storage.

Several burial sites have been found at **Mehrgarh**. In one instance , the dead person was burried with goats , which were probably meant to serve as food for next world .



Elsewhere:

- Cave paintings in France.
- Made between 20 000 to 10 000 years ago .
- Many were animals such as wild horses , aurochsa (an older wild form of cattle), bison, woolly rhinoceros, reindeer and bear painted in bright colours .
- Colours were made from minerals like ochre or iron ore and charcoal.
- One of the most famous neolithic sites **Catal Huyuk** , was found in Turkey.
- Several things were brought from great distances
- Flint from Syria
- Cowries from Red sea.
- Shells from Mediterranean sea .

Most of the things have been carried on the back of animals such as cattle.

Some important dates:

1. The Mesolithic period (12,000-10,000 years ago)
2. Beginnings of domestication (about 12,000 years ago)
3. Beginning of the Neolithic (10,000 years ago)
4. Beginning of settlement at Mehrgarh (about 8,000 years ago).

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Chapter 3: IN THE EARLIEST CITIES

The story of Harappa

1. Nearly a 150 years ago, when railway lines were being laid down for the first time in the Punjab, engineers stumbled upon the site of Harappa in present day Pakistan.
2. To them it seemed like a source of high quality readymade bricks.
3. Many buildings were destroyed in this process until about 80 years ago, archaeologists found the site, and realized that this was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent.
4. As this was the first city to be discovered, all other sites from where similar buildings were found were described as Harappan.
5. These cities developed about 4700 years ago.

What was special about these cities?

1. Many of these cities were divided into two more parts.
2. Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher.
3. Archaeologists describe this as the citadel.
4. Generally, the part to the east was larger but lower.
5. The bricks were laid in interlocking pattern that made the walls strong.
6. In some cities, special buildings were constructed on the citadel.
e.g- the great bath at **Mohenjodaro**.

Kalibangan and Lothal had fire altars.

Mohenjodaro, Harappa, and Lothal had elaborate store houses.



Houses, drains and streets:

1. Generally, houses were either one or two storey high, with rooms built around a courtyard .
2. Most house had a separate bathing area , and some had wells to supply water.
3. Many of these cities had covered drains.
4. Each drain had gentle slope so that water could flow through it .
5. Very often, drains in houses were connected to those on the streets and smaller drains led into bigger ones.
6. As the drains were covered, inspection holes were provided at intervals to clean them.

Life in the city:

1. Rulers of the cities used to send people to distant places to get precious metals, gemstones or other valuable things.
2. There were scribes, who wrote on seals etc.



3. There were men and women, crafts persons, making all kinds of things-either in their own homes, or in special workshops.
4. Many terracotta toys have been found and children must have played with these.

New Crafts in the city:

1. Most of the things found by archaeologists are made up of stone, shell and metal, including copper, bronze, gold and silver.
2. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessel.
3. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.
4. **Harappans** also made seal out of stone, which are generally rectangular and usually have an animal carved on them.
5. The harappans made posts with beautiful black designs.
6. Cotton was probably grown at **Mehrgarh** probably about 7000 years ago.
7. Spindle whorls made of terracotta and faience are found.

In search of raw materials:

1. Copper from Rajasthan and even from **Oman** in west Asia.
2. Tin from **Afghanistan and Iran**
3. Gold from Karnataka.

4. Precious stones from Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan.

Food for people in the cities:

1. Farmers and herders living in the countryside provided food to people in cities.

2. Harappan grew-

Wheat, barley, pulse, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard.

3. Wooden Plough was used to dig the earth and plant seeds.

4. Toy models of plough have been found real ones have not survived.

5. Harappans reared cattle, sheep, goat and buffalo.

6. They collected fruits like ber, caught fish and hunted wild animals like the antelope.

A closer look–Harrappan towns in Gujarat:

1. The city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch.

2. Dholavira was divided into three parts.

3. Other finds include large letters of the Harappan script that were carved out of white stone and perhaps inlaid in wood.

4. The city of Lothal stood beside a tributary of the Sabarmati, in Gujarat close to the Gulf of Khambhat.

5. Lothal had a **dockyard**.

6. A workshop for making beads has been found at lothal.

The mystery of the end:

1. Around 3900 years ago we find the beginning of a major change.

2. People stopped living in many cities.
3. Some scholars suggest rivers dried up.
4. Some suggest there was deforestation loss of fuel for baking and smelting copper ores.
5. Grazing by large herds of cattle, sheep and goat may have destroyed the green cover.
6. In some areas there were floods.

Some important dates

- 1. Cotton cultivation at Mehrgarh – about 7000 years ago.**
- 2. Beginning of cities - about 4700 years ago.**
- 3. Beginning of the end of these cities – about 3900 years ago.**
- 4. The emergence of other cities – about 2500 years ago.**