

Presentation on

Stone Age Culture in India

By

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Pre-history

Pre history- we can define prehistory as the period of human development during the time before the discovery of writing. Pre-history extends from the emergence of our first ancestors , about 5 millions years ago , to the invention of writings about 5000 years ago.

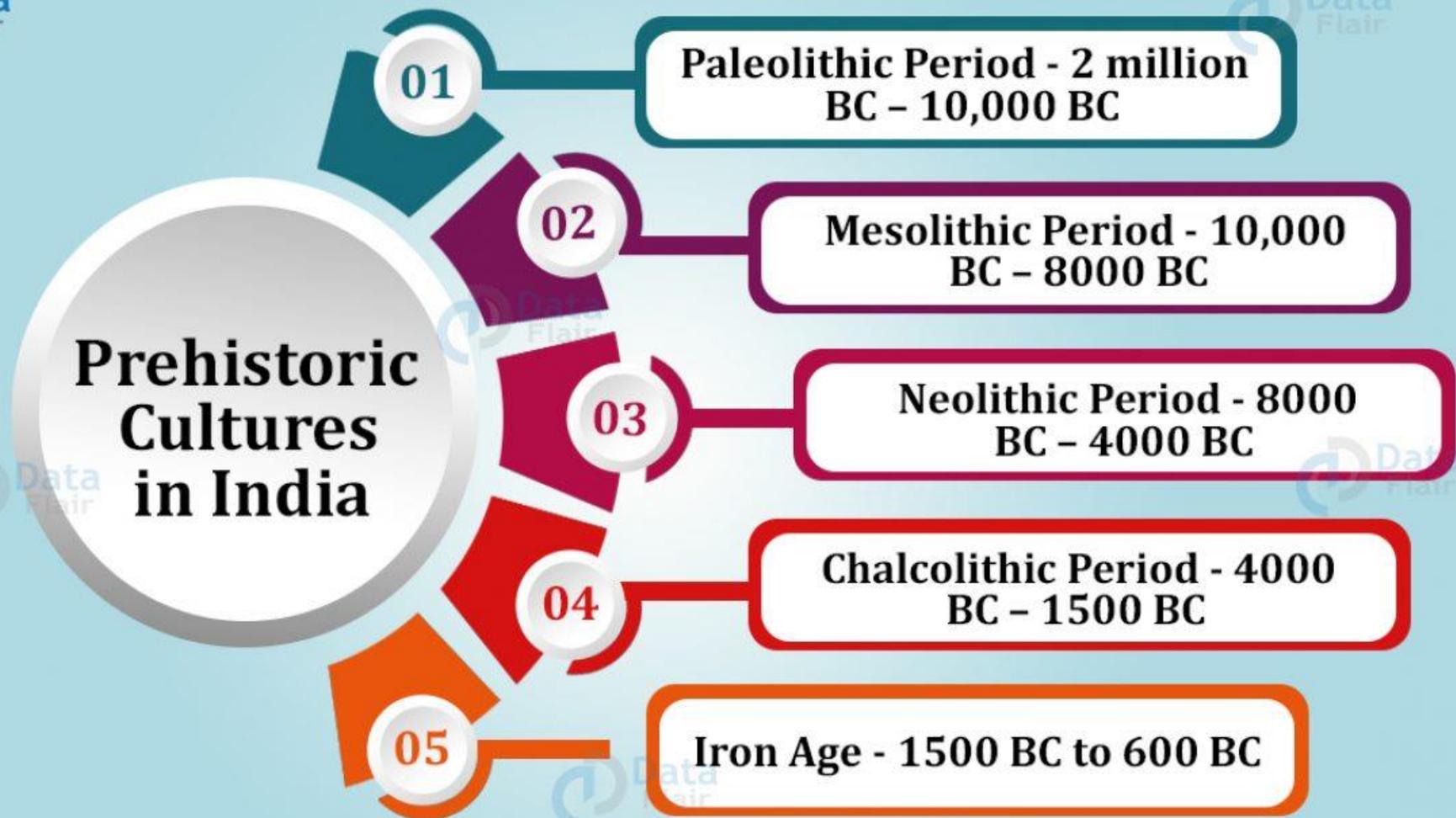
Human societies before written records , 99% of human history is Pre-history .

Proto-history

Proto-history is a period between prehistory and history during which a culture or civilization has not yet developed writing, but other cultures have already noted the existence of those pre-literate groups in their own writings

Historic -Period

historic period - an era of history having some distinctive feature; "we live in a litigious age" age. history - the aggregate of past events; "a critical time in the school's history" epoch, era - a period marked by distinctive character or reckoned from a fixed point or event.



Climate changed dramatically during the Stone Age, from warmer than today to much colder. There were a number of ice ages, where glaciers expanded down from the north and sometimes covered much of Britain, making it impossible to live there. ... A time when it was very cold and glaciers extended down from the North Pole.



Human Life During Stone Age-

Prehistoric hunter-gatherers lived in groups that consisted of several families resulting in a size of a few dozen people. It remained the only mode of subsistence until the end of the Mesolithic period some 10,000 years ago, and after this was replaced only gradually with the spread of the Neolithic Revolution.



Life during Stone Age-

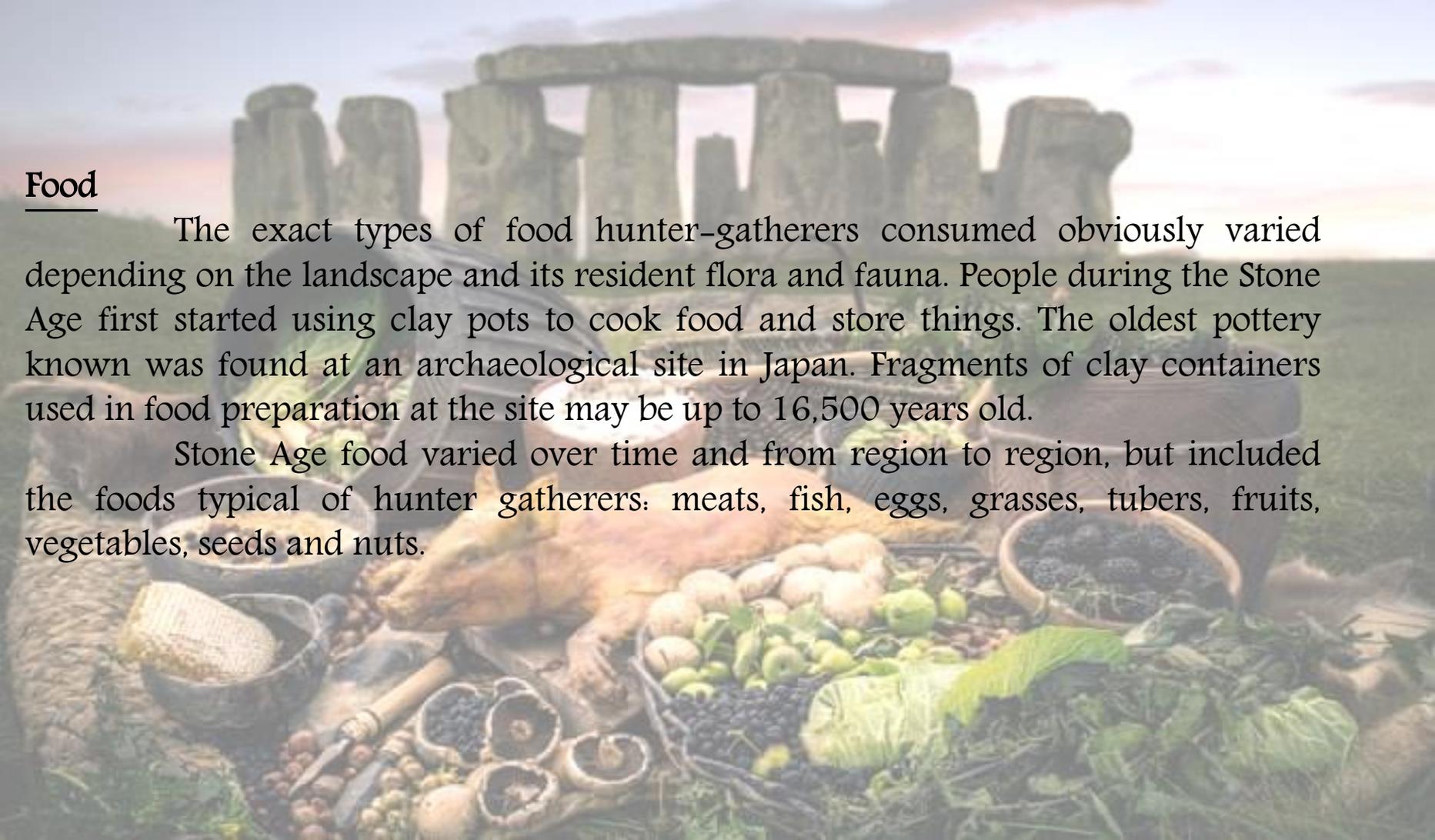
Early stone age human cultures in which human beings obtain their food by hunting, fishing, scavenging, and gathering wild plants and other edibles. Prehistoric societies that relied on the bounty of nature, before the transition to agriculture began around 12,000 years ago.

Prehistoric hunter-gatherers often lived in groups of a few dozens of people, consisting of several family units. They developed tools to help them survive and were dependent on the abundance of food in the area, which if an area was not plentiful enough required them to move to greener forests. It is probable that generally, the men hunted while the women foraged. The earliest hunter-gatherers showed very different adaptations to their environment than groups at later points in time, closer to the transition to agriculture.

Food

The exact types of food hunter-gatherers consumed obviously varied depending on the landscape and its resident flora and fauna. People during the Stone Age first started using clay pots to cook food and store things. The oldest pottery known was found at an archaeological site in Japan. Fragments of clay containers used in food preparation at the site may be up to 16,500 years old.

Stone Age food varied over time and from region to region, but included the foods typical of hunter gatherers: meats, fish, eggs, grasses, tubers, fruits, vegetables, seeds and nuts.



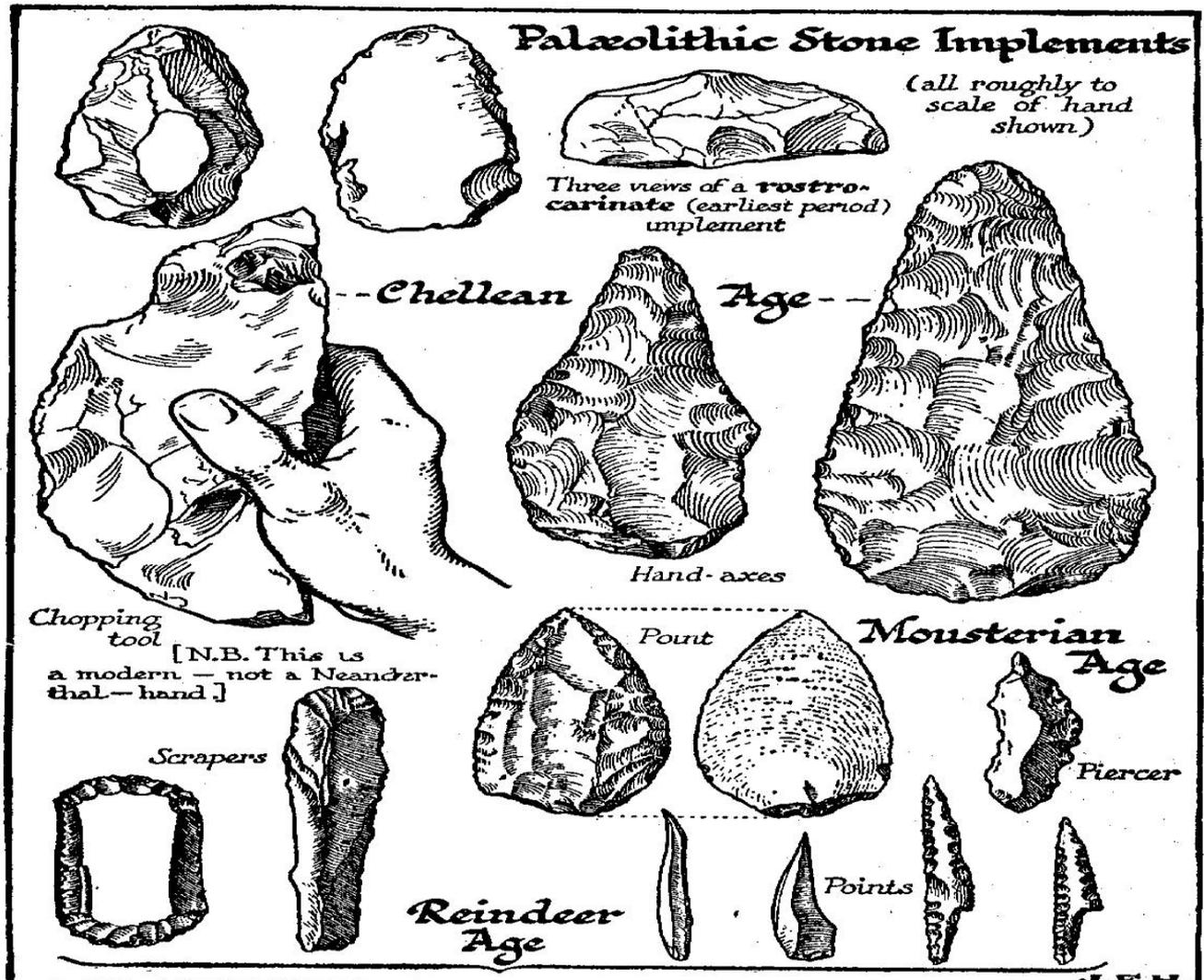
Shelters-

Mostly, these prehistoric hunter-gatherers would have used natural shelters as living space; overhanging cliffs would have provided a place to nestle into to escape the wind and rain, and caves were highly popular as comfortable living spaces could be created within, mostly near the entrance to stay in range of the daylight. However, open sites, more exposed to the elements, have also been found. The living spaces of the earliest hunter-gatherers were basic and not clearly structured. During the stone age mankind moreover relied almost entirely on natural shelters, too; the evidence for manmade shelters is still extremely rare.

They offered an alternative to the still very popular cave life, but caves, of course, were not available everywhere . Thus, some stone age societies built huts or tents with wooden supports, or even with mammoth bones forming the structure, which were also illuminated by the light of hearths and had clear architectural features that organized the spaces into designated areas.

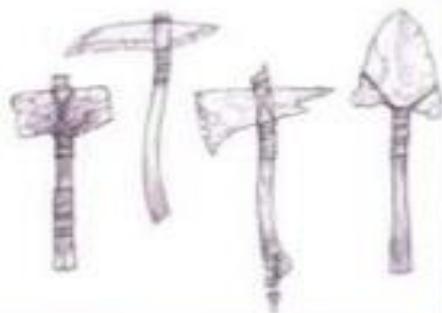
TOOLS

Hand axe
Scraper
Chopper
Grinder
Hummer
Arrow heads
Flakes
Burins



MESOLITHIC AGE TOOLS

- Bones and Ivory used
- Blade
- Core
- Knives
- Chisels
- Triangle
- Burin
- Dagger
- points

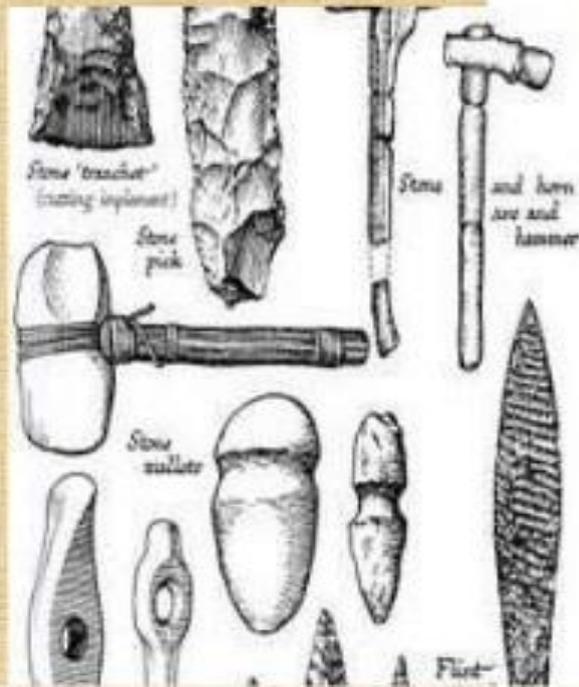


Neolithic age

- TOOLS

Polished and beautiful tools used

1. Polished axes
2. Blades
3. Arrowheads
4. Ring stone
5. Sickle
6. Plough
7. Harpoon
8. Muller



flint arrowhead



flint knife

www.visualdictionaryonline.com



polished stone hand axe

Stone Age Tools

Much of what we know about life in the Stone Age and Stone Age people comes from the tools they left behind. Hammerstones are some of the earliest and simplest stone tools. Prehistoric humans used hammerstones to chip other stones into sharp-edged flakes. They also used hammerstones to break apart nuts, seeds and bones and to grind clay into pigment. Archaeologists refer to these earliest stone tools as the Oldowan toolkit.

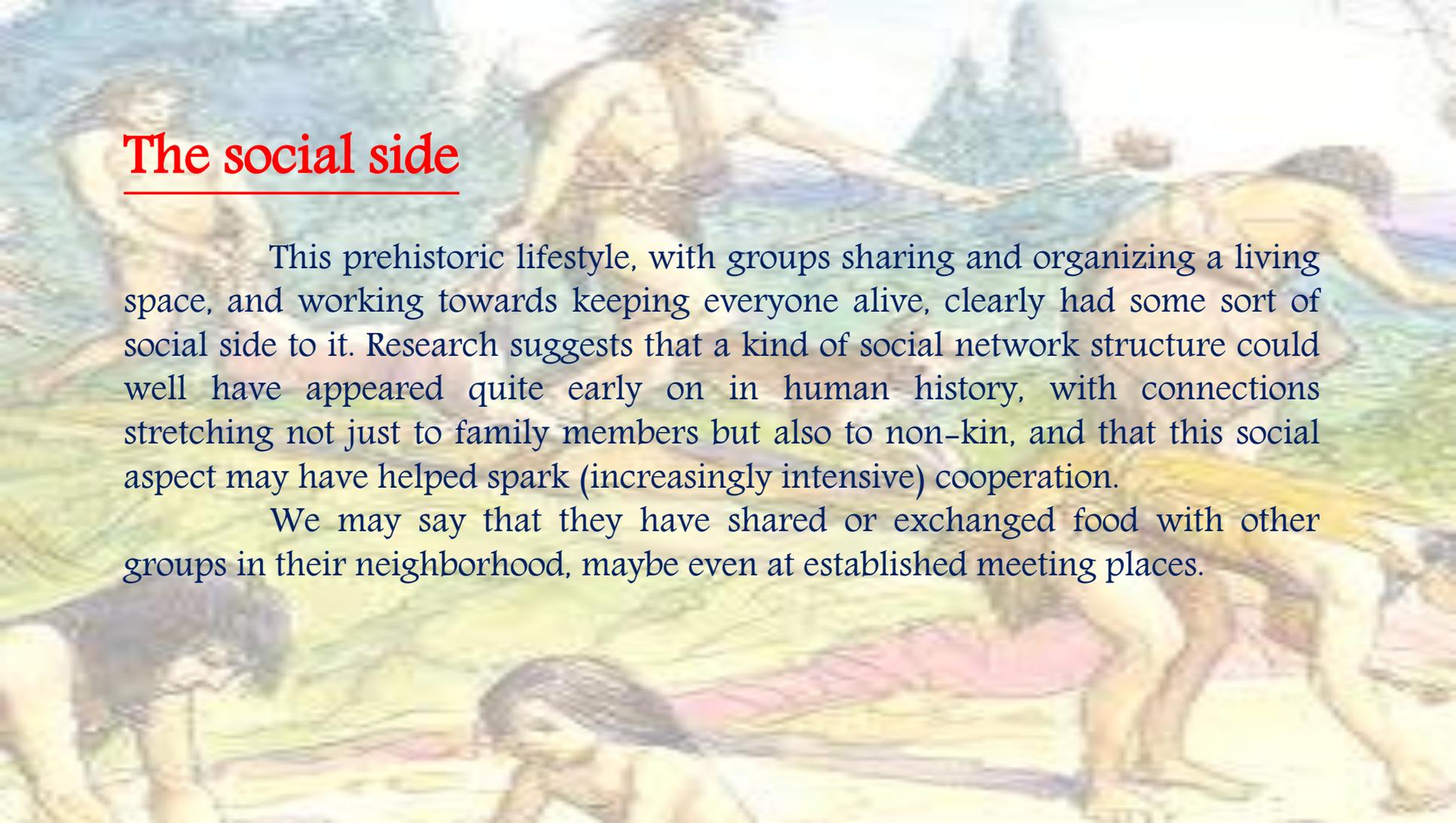
As technology progressed, humans created increasingly more sophisticated stone tools. These included hand axes, spear points for hunting large game, scrapers which could be used to prepare animal hides and awls for shredding plant fibers and making clothing. Not all Stone Age tools were made of stone. Groups of humans experimented with other raw materials including bone, ivory and antler, especially later on in the Stone Age.

Later Stone Age tools are more diverse. These diverse “toolkits” suggest a faster pace of innovation—and the emergence of distinct cultural identities. Different groups sought different ways of making tools.

Fire as a catalyst

Besides the development of tools, another huge change that had an incredible effect on our species is the harnessing of fire. In short, the use of fire meant our ancestors could huddle around it for protection (wild animals in general are not very keen on fire) and warmth, and it allowed them to cook their food – which has an amazing array of benefits. Fire thus plays a central role in human survival and in catalyzing the processes of becoming 'human' as we define it.

Fire had important benefits. Apart from protection and warmth, which would have helped even the earliest, basic fire users to survive, a major advantage that came when the deliberate use of fire began to become more widespread is the ability to cook. Fire in general also had an impact on the social side of these hunter-gatherer groups. Fire, with the light it provided, enabled hunter-gatherers to stay active even after sundown, extending their days and leaving more time for social bonding, which is very important especially in larger groups. Modern humans are awake for nearly twice as long as many of their primate cousins.



The social side

This prehistoric lifestyle, with groups sharing and organizing a living space, and working towards keeping everyone alive, clearly had some sort of social side to it. Research suggests that a kind of social network structure could well have appeared quite early on in human history, with connections stretching not just to family members but also to non-kin, and that this social aspect may have helped spark (increasingly intensive) cooperation.

We may say that they have shared or exchanged food with other groups in their neighborhood, maybe even at established meeting places.

Use of Language-

Another huge benchmark is the use of language, the origin of which is much discussed and very hard to place on a timeline. From some sort of communication to primitive language-like systems somewhere among the earlier forms of humans, to a full-fledged language the way we use it today, it all developed somewhere in these hunter-gatherer societies. Besides the organization of life within a group, being able to discuss your hunting strategies in detail, pinpoint the location of a nearby predator, or give a poetic description of a newly found nearby blueberry bush made a bit of a difference.

The sheer amount of different Homo species that passes the revue in the space above should already be an indicator of just how diverse hunter-gatherers were: each species had different strengths and weaknesses, and differently structured societies, although with time almost all of these humans walked the road that eventually led to agriculture. The exceptions? Some hunter-gatherer societies persist to this day.

Palaeolithic Culture

Soan culture

Soan is a tributary of river Indus

Regions

sub-Himalayan region in Punjab and Himachal Pradesh.

Sirsa valley in Punjab and Beas- Banganga valley in Himachal Pradesh

Three stages

Pre-Soan

Late-Soan

Early-Soan

Sohan complex is also called Chopper chopping complex.

use of pebble tools was dominant.

Two divisions of tools

chopper tools

unifacial tools having a round, oval or almost straight cutting edge

formed by removal of flakes from the upper surface.

chopping tools

bi-facial tool, worked on both the faces.

produced by alternate flaking

Acheulian culture

Acheulian Tool types

hand-axes

cleavers

retouched flakes

scrapers

tools are characterized by distinctive oval and pear-shaped "hand-axes"

Materials such as flint, chaledony, quartzite, andesite, sandstone, chert, and shale were used

Tools made in the Acheulian culture are advanced than tools in Soanian culture.

Attirampakkam at Chennai in Tamil Nadu is the oldest Acheulian site in India(1.51 mya)

Neolithic Age - Major sites

Mehrgarh

evidence of houses

built of sun-dried bricks.

with multiple rooms

crops like wheat, barley and cotton were discovered from here.

Kashmir valley

Burzahom

People lived in pits

dwelling pits were either circular or rectangular

Gufkral

used numerous tools and weapons made of bone.

used coarse grey pottery.

Bihar

Chirand

Bone tools

Karnataka

Sanganakallu, Brahmagiri, Maski, Piklihal, Hallur

Millet cultivation

Uttar Pradesh

Allahabad

cultivation of rice

Around Bhima, Krishna and Tungabhadra rivers

Andhra Pradesh

Budihal

Utnur

earliest site

Nagarjunakonda

 **Mindmapcharts**
www.mindmapcharts.com

Tamil Nadu

Paiyampalli

Kaveri

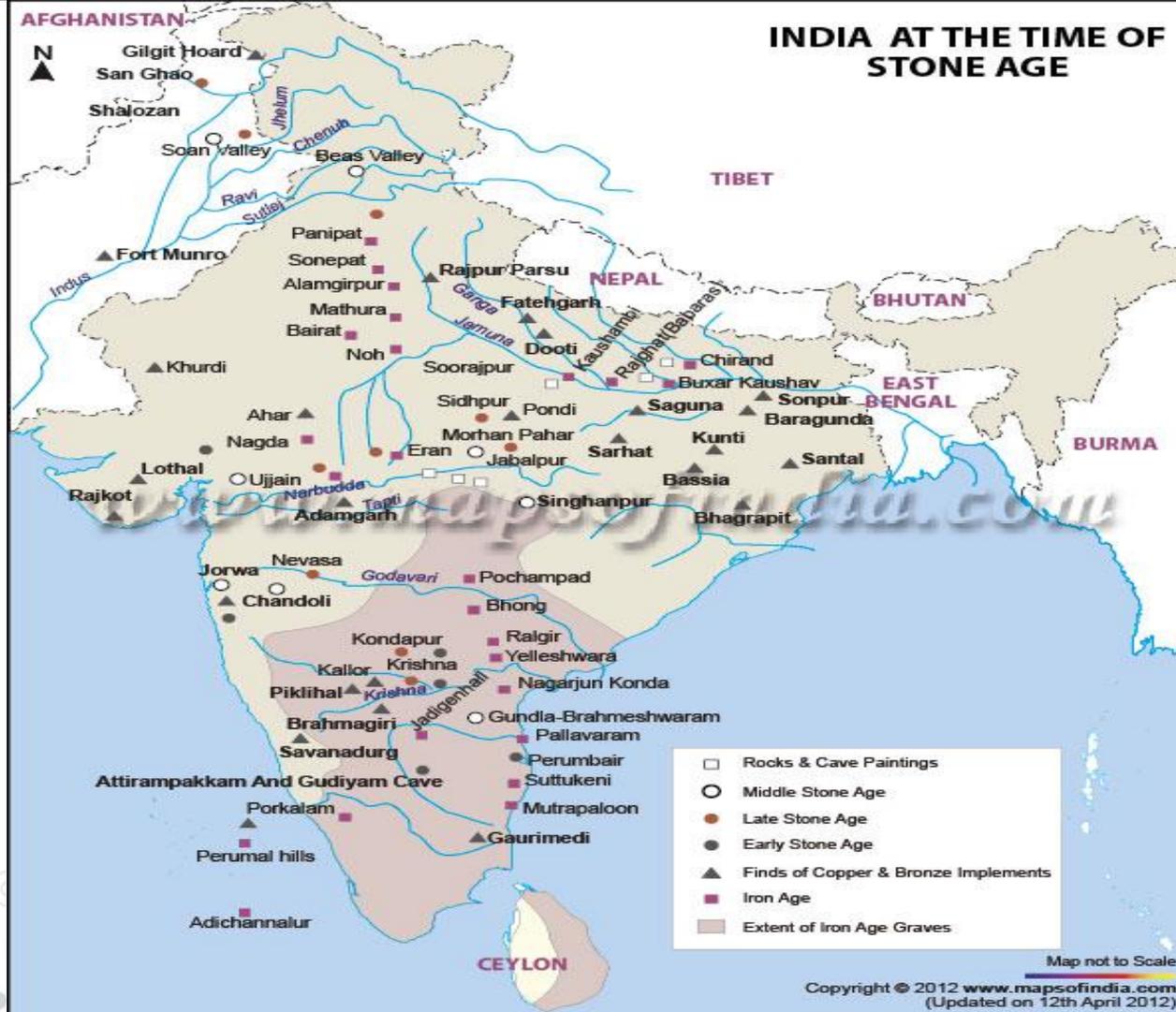
Belan Valley

Koldihwa

domestication of Rice in 7000 B.C.

Mahagara

Garo hills in Meghalaya.



*Thank
you*

